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LOK SABHA POLL ALLIANCE

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Lightning not a natural disaster, says Centre

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Conglomerates are getting too big for comfort

Some are being unduly favoured by the state

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Alcaraz claims maiden Wimbledon title

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No ticket for unpopular candidates, says Chouhan

Nistula Hebbar
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan exudes confidence that his government will be able to deal with a local-level anti-incumbency trend in the coming Assembly election by making changes to the candidate list and with a campaign focused on development and welfare programmes.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Chouhan, who has served as Chief Minister for nearly 18 years, said the solution to the anti-incumbency trend was to remove candidates who faced it. "This is not an indiscriminate change in candidates, but one done after due assessment," he said.

Mr. Chouhan said he was "confident" that he would be able to overcome the challenge because of the work of his government.

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Govt. sets up new panel to review all NSO data

It replaces a committee which examined economic datasets only; move follows sharp critiques of India's statistical machinery; new panel to advise govt. on surveys, identify and plug data gaps

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Union government has constituted a new internal oversight mechanism for official data, revamping a Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) set up in late 2019, soon after the findings from the last round of household surveys on consumption expenditure and employment were junked over "data quality issues".

In an order issued last Thursday, the Statistics Ministry said that the SCES, which was tasked with examining economic indicators only, will now be replaced by a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) which has a broader mandate to review the framework and results of all surveys conducted under the aegis of the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Revisiting the numbers

The new Standing Committee on Statistics has a broader mandate to review framework and results of all NSO surveys

- The panel replaces the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics set up in 2019 after the findings from the last round of household surveys on consumption expenditure and employment were junked, citing 'data quality issues'
- Its terms of reference include finalisation of survey results, better use of administrative data
- Apart from survey design improvements, SCoS will identify data gaps and strategies to plug them

Pronab Sen, former Chairman of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), has been named the chair of the new panel.

'System overhaul'

The SCoS – with "enhanced terms of reference" vis-à-vis the SCES, "to ensure more coverage" – has 10 official members, and four non-official members who are eminent academics. It can have up to 16 members, as per the order issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The development comes amid sharp critiques of India's statistical machinery by members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, including its chairperson Bibek Debroy. He had mooted an overhaul of the system, and contended that the Indian Statistical Service has "little expertise in survey design".

"The term of the SCES was coming to an end in any case, so it was decided to expand the committee's mandate beyond economic data and advise the Ministry on technical aspects for all surveys, such as sampling frame, design, survey methodology and finalisation of results," an official said.

Apart from addressing issues raised from time to time on the subject, results and methodology for all surveys, the terms of reference of the SCoS include identification of data gaps that need to be filled by official statistics, along with a strategy to plug those gaps. It has been mandated to explore the use of administrative statistics to improve data outcomes. While the panel will help finalise survey results, the NSC will have the ultimate authority to approve the publication of those results.

All in readiness: Posters of Opposition leaders put up in Bengaluru on the eve of the Opposition meeting on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

AAP confirms it will join Opposition meet in Bengaluru today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Making the road to Opposition unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election smoother, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday announced that it would attend a meeting of Opposition parties in Bengaluru on Monday and Tuesday.

The announcement came hours after the Congress said it will not "support" an Ordinance on control over services in Delhi passed by the Union government.

After a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) – the highest decision-making body of the AAP – on Sunday evening, party Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha told presspersons, "The Congress, clearing its position, has expressed its opposition to the Ordinance. We welcome this announcement. The AAP, under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, will take part in the meeting of like-minded parties in Bengaluru on July 17 and 18 and present its views."

Earlier in the day, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said, "I think they [AAP] are going to join the meeting tomorrow. Our stand is very clear on the Delhi Ordinance. We are not going to support it." Responding to Mr. Venugopal's statement, Trinamool Congress national spokesperson Derek O'Brien said in a tweet, "2024. Bring it on."

Meanwhile, a Congress leader from Punjab said, "Congress expects that the AAP government won't continue to target party leaders in Punjab."

MORE REPORTS
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NEARBY

Stage set for second meeting of Oppn. leaders

BENGALURU
Bengaluru is set to hog the political limelight yet again with the upcoming meeting of Opposition parties looking to draw up plans for a joint fight against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. This is the second time in the past two months that Bengaluru will host a number of political leaders since several of them gathered for the swearing-in of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.
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JD(S) looking at outcome of NDA meet tomorrow

BENGALURU
Amid increasing speculation over a possible Janata Dal (Secular) and Bharatiya Janata Party alliance in Karnataka ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the regional party is believed to be looking at the outcome of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties meeting in Delhi on Tuesday. » Page 6

EDUCATION PLUS
» PAGES 4 & 5

India to push G-20 partners to raise MNC tax share

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India will push its G-20 partners to support its proposal to raise the share of taxes multinational companies pay to countries where they earn "excess profits", government officials said.

India's proposal could temper optimism among G-20 members such as Australia and Japan that a meeting of Finance Ministers and central bankers in Gujarat on Monday and Tuesday would make progress on a long-awaited overhaul of global corporate taxation.

CONTINUED ON
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Panel wants Kuno cheetahs to undergo medical review

Root cause: The medical review will investigate if the radio collars on the cheetahs are indirectly abetting infections. PTI

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Following the deaths of two more cheetahs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh over the past week, the expert advisory committee overseeing the implementation of Project Cheetah has recommended that all the animals undergo a thorough physical and medical review. This will involve recalling even the animals released into the wild and investigating if the radio collars dangling from their necks were indirectly abetting infections, multiple sources told *The Hindu*.

The trigger for the recall was the latest fatality; a cheetah named Surya died from a wound on its neck that was then infected with maggots. The larvae of the maggots were also found on the radio collar and this fatally infected the animal, says Rajesh Gopal, who chairs the apex steering committee monitoring the cheetah project.

Whether the wound was due to abrasion from the collars abetting a parasitic infection is a matter of dispute, with officials saying that India's long history of radio-collaring tigers, leopards and now cheetahs has never shown such infections.

CONTINUED ON
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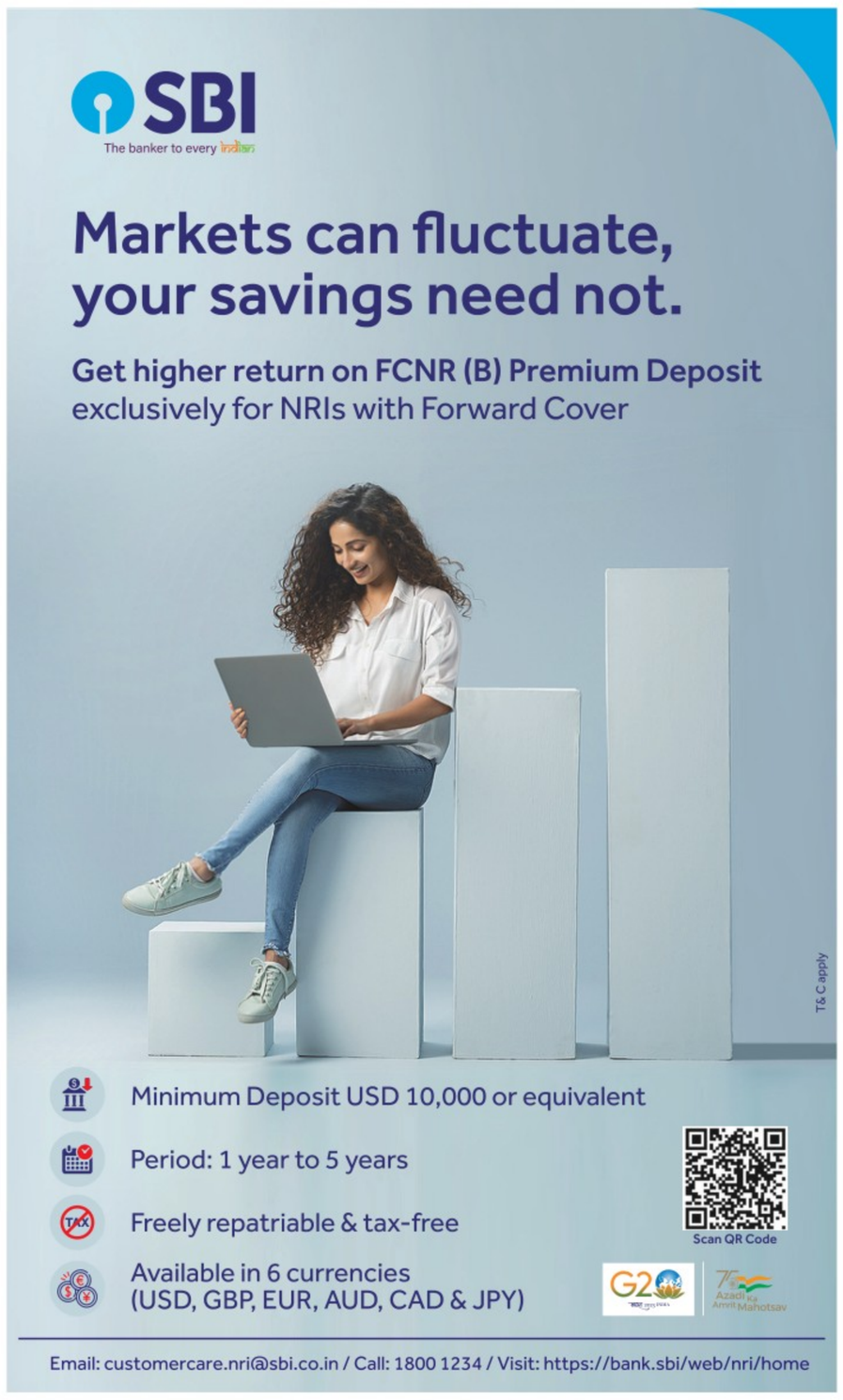

From Bhadohi to Roseau, Jaiswal hums a happy tune

Mumbai's tradition of blooding the players young saw him play for the senior side and he turned heads with his sensational show; the national selectors did the right thing as they picked someone when he was in top form as also the team management

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Yashasvi Jaiswal wasn't born when *Titanic* was released.

James Cameron's classic remains one of the most loved films of our time, 26 years after it reached cinemas and garnered a record 14 Oscar nominations. One of *Titanic*'s highlights was the song, *My Heart Will Go On*. Sung by Celine Dion, it was the theme song of the film and is one of the largest-selling singles of all time.

It is Jaiswal's favourite song (that it was picturised on his favourite actress Kate Winslet is an added attraction). Listening to the song makes him happy.

He is particularly fond of the song's opening lines -- *Every night in my dreams/ I see you, I feel you*. He often hums those lines.

He must have done it quite a few times when he watched, from a distance, the bright lights at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, on a night of an IPL match or an international game. As he listened to the noise from the stadium, he would imagine, one day, the fans there would be cheering for him.

That dream came true in spectacular style a couple of months ago as he smashed 124 off just 62 balls for Rajasthan Royals against Mumbai Indians. That was his first hundred in the IPL, something he must have been looking forward to ever since he was picked by the Royals for Rs. 2.4 crore, 12 times his base price.

He was just 17 then, and the onset of the coronavirus was just a few weeks away. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 edition of the IPL was staged in the UAE.

Ahead of the tournament, Jaiswal sounded understandably excited as he spoke to this correspondent over phone from Dubai. "Being part of the IPL is an amazing feeling," he said. "I have already learnt how different the senior level is from the junior."

His transition to senior cricket was smooth enough. He had made a double hundred for Mumbai against Jharkhand in the Vijay Hazare Trophy tournament in 2019 at Bengaluru. His 154-ball 203 made him, at 17 years and 292 days, the world's youngest-ever double-centurion in List A cricket, in which only six other Indians had scored a double hundred before him. He had broken a record that stood for 44 years, and by three years (the previous record belonged to South African Alan Barrow).

A few days ago, Jaiswal had an opportunity to take an even more significant record off another South African. In the Dominican capital of Roseau, he was looking good enough for a double hundred when Alzarri Joseph produced a thin outside edge.

Jaiswal was thus caught behind for 171. On a slow track where patience and technique were always going to reward a batter handsomely, especially against a West Indies attack that looked as different as possible from the intimidating ones of the 1980s and 90s, he could have broken Jacques Rudolph's record as the youngest to score a Test double hundred on debut. The South African was 21 years 355 days when he made an unbeaten 222 against Bangladesh at Chattogram in 2003 (It may be noted that he had played in the 'unofficial' Test at Centurion in 2001 following the ball-tampering and excessive appealing incident).

Jaiswal may not have broken Rudolph's record, but he broke several, nevertheless, as he became the 17th Indian to score a hundred on Test debut. Perhaps the most significant among his records is that it is the longest innings by an Indian on Test debut. He batted for 501 minutes and faced 387 balls.

That shows his determination and temperament. It also shows that he is suited for the rigours of Test match cricket (even in these exciting times of Bazball). And remember, he is a young man who likes to get on with his act and is blessed with an array of shots and supreme self-confidence (he holds the record for the fastest IPL fifty - off 13 balls).

The fact that he adapted himself adequately in his very first innings - which also fetched him the Player-of-the-Match award - augurs well for the future of India's Test cricket. And it certainly won't hurt having a quality left-hander at the top of the order as well.

Jaiswal's style resembles that of probably India's finest left-hander - Sourav Ganguly. Little wonder he is called Baby Ganguly.

Unlike Ganguly, who was born into a rich family in Kolkata, life hadn't been easy for Jaiswal. When he was 12, he left his village in Bhadohi (Uttar Pradesh) for Mumbai, where he had to sleep in a tent and sell snacks to make some money. He had to get up early to train before the more privileged boys arrived and he would spend the night shadow practising.

Mumbai's tradition of blooding them young saw him play for the senior side and he turned heads with his sensational show in the Vijay Hazare tournament in 2019. The following year, he was the leading scorer and the Player-of-the-Tournament at the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa.

Runs have continued to flow from his bat, in every format. He had three consecutive hundreds in the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy, made 497 runs at an average of 99.40 in the Duleep Trophy last year, and scored a double hundred and a hundred for Rest of India in the Irani Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh earlier this year. He took that form into the IPL, in which he smashed 625 runs at an average of 48.07 and a strike rate of 163.61.

Now it was up to the national selectors. They did the right thing: they picked a player when he was in top form. Then the team management in the West Indies did the right thing too: they found the opener's slot for him, moving Shubman Gill to one drop.

Now, Jaiswal had to do the right thing, too. He did, didn't he?

▼ Jaiswal had made a double hundred for Mumbai against Jharkhand in the Vijay Hazare Trophy tournament in 2019 at Bengaluru

▼ His style resembles that of probably India's finest left-hander Sourav Ganguly and he is referred as Baby Ganguly

MOVING LIKE WATER

Aquatics is, arguably, one of the most aesthetically pleasing sports to watch. It is mesmerising, breath-taking and exciting — all the perfect elements to get one hooked. The World Aquatics championships, currently underway in Fukuoka, Japan, is nothing short of a spectacle. The championships, which first began in 1973, is now held biennially.
The 2023 edition, the 20th in the tournament's history, has 75 medals up for grab in six disciplines — water polo, diving, high diving, swimming, open water swimming and artistic swimming (pictured here).
Artistic, or synchronised swimming, involves a couple or group of swimmers performing a choreographed number perfectly to music — a feat hard enough to get right on solid ground.
Mashiro Yasunaga and Moe Higa, after barely making the final (they finished 12th in the preliminary round), nailed the duet technical routine and became the first Japanese pair to win a world title in 22 years. GETTY IMAGES

Jaiswal has shown he has the awareness of different formats

W.V. Raman

Yashasvi Jaiswal has a knack of getting runs in matches that matter. I have been watching him from his junior days. So I am not surprised he has done well on his Test debut.

The way he has adapted is really a revelation because we have recently seen him going hammer and tongs in the T20 format. The question was whether he will live up to the expectations in terms of numbers. He has done an extraordinary job on his debut itself. The West Indies bowling may not have been that strong, but it is not the bowlers that get you get out, it is the occasion that is overwhelming.

People thought of Jaiswal as someone who would play in the attacking mode and come down the track even against fast bowlers. He has shown that he has the awareness to do what he needs in different formats.

I remember even from Under-19 days, there were a lot of reservations about the way he used to get out, because he liked to play shots. At that young age, you tend to make some wrong choices.

On the ball: The way Jaiswal has adapted to Test cricket is a revelation, says Raman. AFP

He will find out shortly life cannot always be in one mode. He will learn a lot of things. People should not put pressure on him. He should be handled well and encouraged even if he has a hiccup or two somewhere down the line.

A left-hander in the opening partnership – like in the ones featuring Gautam Gambhir and Virender Sehwag and Shikhar Dhawan and Murali Vijay – is good for Indian cricket, going forward.

(as told to P.K. Ajith Kumar)

BDA illegally converted 94 CA sites into residential plots in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout: Shivakumar

Deputy CM reveals that these sites, spread over 64 acres, were diverted and converted into residential plots without following the due process

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) illegally converted 94 civic amenity (CA) sites and land marked for parks, spread over 64 acres, in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) into residential plots. This will deny residents of the layout parks, playgrounds, and other common amenities.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar informed the Legislative Assembly about the alleged deviation while responding to a question by former Urban Development Minister S. Suresh Kumar.

Till date, the BDA has developed only 107 civic amenity sites. K. MURALI KUMAR

Acquisition in 2014

In 2014, the State government issued notification to acquire 4,043.27 acres of land for formation of NPK Layout and 387.20 acres were earmarked for 147 CA sites.

After land acquisition, 2,694.26 acres were handed over to the Engineering Department of the BDA for development of the layout, in which 177 CA sites were proposed, spread over 232 acres. However, till date, the BDA has developed only 107 CA sites.

Once a portion of the layout is notified as a CA site, park or playground, engineers do not have the authority to change the plan. In case of change of plan, the BDA has to separately issue a public notice.

Mr. Shivakumar revealed that 94 CA sites, spread over 64 acres, had been diverted and converted into residential plots without following the due process.

He added that an investigation would be carried out to assess the loss incurred due to this illegal conversion, and errant officials will be punished.

Probe launched

Former BDA chairman S.R. Vishwanath said that a probe was launched into the alleged deviation while he was at the helm. "About 30 engineers were found to be involved in the deviation. However, BDA officials seem to have misled the Minister and claimed that a probe would be launched. Actually, the probe was almost completed when I was chairman of BDA," he said.

Mr. Vishwanath said that besides monetary loss to the BDA, the fallout of the illegal deviation would mean the BDA won't get alternative land to provide civic amenities residents.

"Due to this, children will be denied playgrounds and senior citizens will be denied parks," he said, demanding action against errant officials. He also asked the government to find ways to fix the shortfall in CA sites.

Beneficiaries upset

Suryakiran A.S., joint secretary, NPKL Open Forum, said conversion of CA sites into residential plots would result in denial of various amenities to residents.

"Every block should have parks, post offices, schools and other civic amenities. But with CA sites being converted into residential plots, some of the nine blocks would be denied these amenities, forcing them to move out of their blocks to access these amenities. The illegality will also cut down lung space, as this conversion will rob space for parks," he said.

READER'S MAIL

Urgent asphalting needed

Sir, – Around eight months ago, the BBMP commenced a major redevelopment work on the busy Gandhi Bazaar Main Road in Basavangudi, which is still going on at a snail's pace. As part of the project, trenches were dug overnight at several places on the circular stretch of the road at the Ashram Circle, which were soon filled up to allow vehicular movement. Since then, no additional work has been undertaken on these sections. For a long time now, motorists have been finding it extremely challenging to negotiate these heavily potholed stretches. Once in a while, the project contractor gets the dug-up portions filled up with construction debris, but that hardly solves the problem.
Since it would be months before the work would be completed, the BBMP should arrange an urgent asphalting of the troubling spot to relieve the road users.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Street lights needed

Sir, – There are not many street lights from Kundalahalli junction to AECS Layout junction. There is a need to install more street lights not only for the purposes of safety but also to avoid accidents.

Abhishek Ballaney,
Bengaluru

Readers can email to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 17	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 05:25	SET 18:45
TUESDAY, JUL. 18	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 06:18	SET 19:31
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 19	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 07:10	SET 20:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain or thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

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THE HINDU
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E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 17, we have a story on the Kula Conclave, an event that showcased different entrepreneurs and how they looked at many facets of India's cultural economy, including its power and potential.

Man held on charge of trying to kill wife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagalur police on Sunday arrested a 24-year-old man who allegedly attempted to kill his wife over a domestic row and make it look like a road accident six months ago.

The accused had hatched a plan to kill his wife, even hired a second-hand SUV, and arranged for a driver to run over his wife while she was riding a scooter. They followed her many times to identify a road that did not have CCTV and even executed a plan. However, the victim was saved with severe injuries on her legs, and the police, who initially investigated the case as hit and run, identified the SUV after analysing footage from over 50 CCTV cameras.

The police tracked down the SUV to a garage. When they checked the registration number and contacted the owner, it was revealed that he had sold it to a man a few months ago and had not changed ownership.

The police, with the help of the first owner, checked the address of the person who bought the SUV and was shocked to realise that the vehicle was purchased by the husband of the victim.

A detailed questioning led him to confess to the crime, following which the police arrested the accused, identified as Aravinda, along with the driver, Uday Kumar, 40.

According to the police, Aravinda, who worked in a factory, married Chaitanya, 22, a year ago and they were living with his parents.

A few months later, Chaitanya started having differences with her in-laws and forced Aravinda to get a separate house.

Aravinda was against it and the couple started having fights regularly. Aravinda asked for divorce, but Chaitanya was adamant and threatened him with dire consequences.

Enraged by this, Aravinda hired Uday Kumar and hatched a plan. They followed Chaitanya many times when she was riding the scooter.

Aravinda and Uday Kumar had taken all the precautions and knocked down her scooter in KIDB layout in Bagalur before fleeing the spot six months ago. The severely injured Chaitanya was admitted to the hospital while the police initiated investigation.

Chaitanya had suffered serious injuries on her legs and is still undergoing treatment. The accused have been booked under attempt to murder and remanded in judicial custody.

Row over relationship: Student set on fire sustains third-degree burns

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old engineering student sustained third-degree burn injuries after he was allegedly abducted and set on fire by a group of men over a love affair in Kumbalgodu on Saturday.

The victim has been identified as Shashank, son of Ranganath and a resident of R.R. Nagar.

An initial probe revealed that he had been in a relationship with a relative from Mysuru. The girl's parents, who got to know about this, objected strongly and warned Shashank to stay away from her. On Tuesday, the girl visited Bengaluru and Shashank had gone to meet her. The girl's family visited Shashank's house and allegedly created a ruckus, assaulted him, and took her with them.

The police suspect that the family members of the girl abducted Shashank on Saturday while he was waiting for a bus, to return home from college.

The accused took him to an isolated place near the toll gate in Kumbalgodu, blindfolded him, gagged his mouth, and assaulted him after tying his hands and legs, said the police.

They poured petrol on him and he was set on fire and they escaped, said the police.

Shashank raised the alarm and rolled on the ground to extinguish the fire. He called his friends and informed them about the incident. They took him to Victoria Hospital for treatment.

The Kumbalgodu police have registered a case of an attempt to murder, and efforts are on to track down the accused, who are presently on the run.

Inspector suspended for not probing 'honour killing' case properly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamasamudra Circle Inspector has been suspended by the Inspector-General of Police (Central Range) for alleged dereliction of duty while handling a 'honour killing' case.

IGP (Central Range) Ravikanthe Gowda issued the suspension orders of P.J. Madhukar on Sunday.

The incident pertains to a man allegedly strangling his daughter to death for falling in love with a Dalit youth at Bodagurki village near Bangarapet in Kolar on June 27.

Madhukar not only touched the body before the due procedure and shifted it to the hospital, but also did not inform the senior officials about the incident and did not complete the procedure before and after the post-mortem, the police said.

This amounts to gross negligence and a dereliction of duty, a police officer said.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O & M Circle Office, Shakthi Soudha, Bondel, Mangalore - 575 015
Ph: 0824-2443549/2444915 | CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

NO: SEE/MNG/EE(O)/AEE-2/2023-24/3602-603 Date: 13.07.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

MESCOM invites tenders from eligible bidders for following work.

Tender No.	Description
MESCOM/2023-24/EL/ WORK_INDENT 21	Repair of failed 5 MVA Power Transformer of 33/11KV Savanoor Sub Station, Puttur Rural Sub Division, Puttur Division.

The bids will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement portal only. The detailed tender notification information can be obtained by logging on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19.07.2023. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, Mangaluru

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our Client is desirous of purchasing the Schedule Property from its present owners **N Jayalakshmi, N Bhadresh, Badaresh Shrimanthani, Surabi and T Vibhudesh.**

Any Person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Survey No. 68/3 (Old No 68/1) measuring 1 Acre 03Guntas, 68/4 measuring 07Guntas and Sy No 71/6 measuring 25Guntas situated at Gorur Village Solur Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagram District totally measuring 1 Acre 35 Guntas and bounded on the:

East by : Road West by : Property belonging to Eeranna
North by : Block 1 Property belonging to Ganga Hanumaiah
South by : Pepper Factory

(S.A.H.RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)
2nd Floor, M.M.Complex No. 60, Chick Bazaar Road,Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051. M :**9845049766 / 9243132714**
Place: Bangalore Dated: 17-07-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Maneck Divanimal Hiranandani son of late Divanimal Hardasmal Hiranandani, 703, Embassy Orchid, 8th Main, Between 6th and 7th Cross, RMV Extension, Bengaluru-560 080 is the absolute owner of the property in Krishnagiri District, Krishnagiri Registration District, Hosur Sub Registration District, Hosur Taluk, Sevaganapalli Village bearing:

Survey No. 135/2D, Dry in this an extent of Acre 0.05 cents
Survey No. 134/3, Dry in this an extent of Acre 0.13 cents
Survey No. 136/2, Dry in this an extent of 0.82 cents

Denoted as AGRICULTURE UNIT NO. 112 (One Hundred and Twelve) within the following boundaries

North : Agriculture Unit No. 113
West : Cart Track
South : Cart Track
East : Private Land

Within these boundaries the above extent of Acre 1.00 (One Acre only) is owned by my client having acquired the same in terms a sale deed dated 26/12/2005 as Document No. 12337/2005, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Hosur. Our Client has lost the original sale deed bearing Document No. 3825/2005 dated 04/05/2005 in Bengaluru, during transit and is unable to trace the same despite best efforts.

The General Public are hereby notified that if any person transacts with regard to said property with any person who has custody of the above registered sale deed, they will be doing so at their own risk and consequences and my Client will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

Date : 17-07-2023
Place : Bengaluru

Veena .R
Advocate
No. 5/7, 6th Cross
Govindaraj Nagar
Bengaluru - 560 040.
Mob: 98861 08404

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	North-2	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/315 2023-24, Dated: 11.07.2023	₹ 5,29,927/- / ₹ 13,300/-	31.07.2023 upto 3:00 pm	01.08.2023 after 4:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

2.	North West-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/ 834/2023-24 Dated: 14.07.2023	₹ 58,93,297/- / ₹ 1,27,100/-	25.07.2023 upto 4:00 pm	27.07.2023 after 4:30 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

3.	(WWM-P) K&T Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P)K&T/ AE/215/2023-24 Dated: 14.07.2023	₹ 28,01,151/- / ₹ 66,107/-	25.07.2023 upto 4:00 pm	26.07.2023 at 4:05 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P) K&T Valley

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

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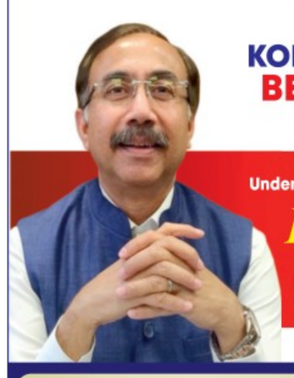

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CHANGE OF NAME

I , the parent SMITA NAIK, currently residing in 202, 78/395,A.N. Rajanna, Kanaka building, 1st block, 7th cross, Jayanagar, Bangalore–560011,Karnatka state, India have changed my minor daughter's name from RAGHAVI NAIK to RAGHAVI JATTI NAIK for all future purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XVII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-16)
O.S NO. 6719/2022
BETWEEN
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered Office at: Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, and Branch Office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 Through its Authorised Representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M, ...Plaintiff
And:
Ms. Kavita A ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Ms. Kavita A D/O S. J. Antony, Aged About 44 Years, R/ At- No. 336/2, Church Road Shamanna Lane, Murugeshpalya, Vimanapura, Bangalore North, Karnataka- 560017
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 4,73,869/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XVII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-16), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **16-08-2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex- Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 11th day of July 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', #3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE VIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-15)
O.S NO. 363/2021
Hg. 01.09.2023
Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No. 1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative. Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Muthuraj L B ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Muthuraj L B
S/o. Bangalore Krishnamurthy Lokanath, Aged about 33 Years, Residing at 711, Venkateshwara Nilaya, 18th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli Main Road, Hebbala, Near Bus Stop, Bengaluru-560024.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.7,51,742/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **VIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-15),** in person or by a pleader, on the day **01.09.2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 5th day of July, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01.

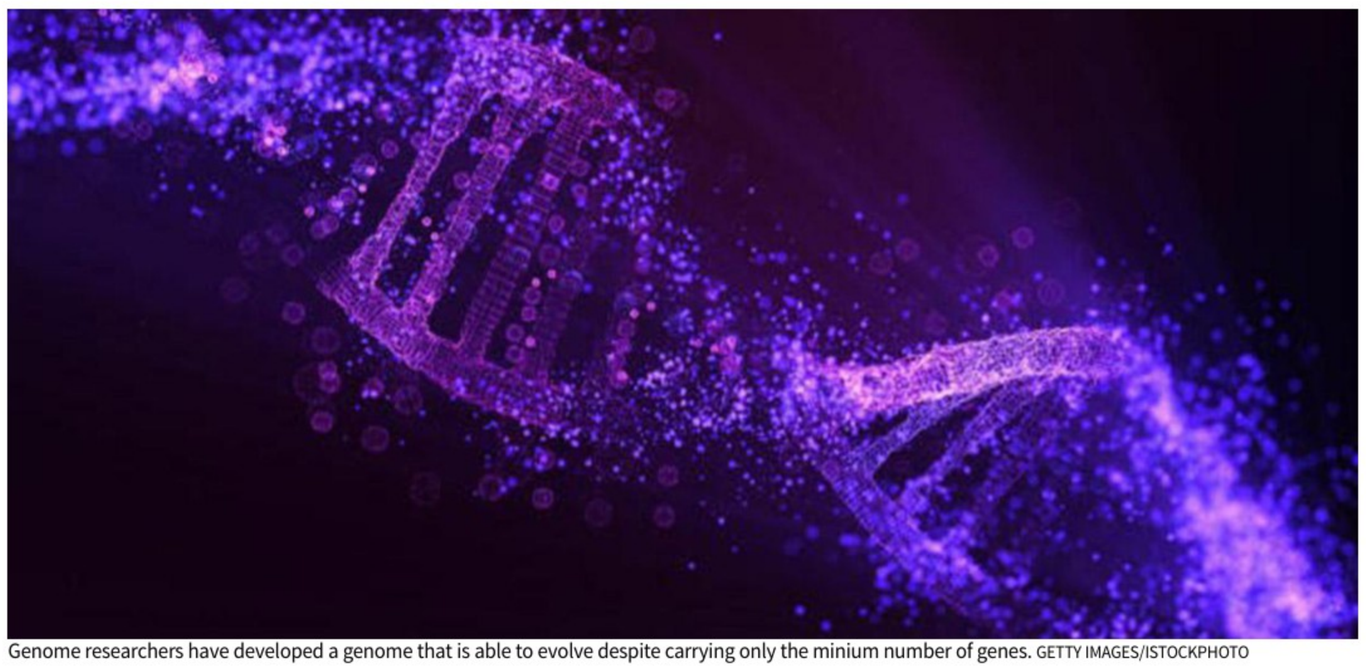
Evolution is the right of all life forms – even synthetic ones

In 2016, researchers created a genome that had the absolute minimum number of genes to be compatible with life. It was widely believed that the resulting organism was unlikely to evolve because it had little freedom to adapt to environmental conditions. But a recent report suggests this conclusion was mistaken

Vinod Scaria
Sridhar Sivasubbu

Our ability to sequence genomes and genomic research more broadly has significantly enriched our understanding of the genome of humans and the many life forms around us. Yet researchers have always been curious about what really constitutes the minimal requirement for a genome compatible with an organism's ability to live freely and replicate.

Concurrent advancements in not just reading the genome sequence (*sequencing*) but also our ability to write (*synthesise*) genome sequences has sparked the human imagination, and has provided impetus to a new field of research called synthetic biology.



Genome researchers have developed a genome that is able to evolve despite carrying only the minium number of genes. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What we can build

An early attempt in this direction was led by researchers at the J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) in Maryland, U.S. In 2008, they attempted to synthesise a small bacterial genome, but at the time were unable to put it back into the cell and give it a spark of life.

Finally, in 2010, researchers at JCVI were able to synthesise a complete genome of around 1 million base-pairs of a modified genome of a free-living organism called *Mycoplasma mycoides*. They named it JCVI-syn1.0. This genome could be introduced into a cell and could replicate, thus becoming one of the first synthetic life-forms. This was a culmination of efforts spanning over 15 years, which included attempts to redesign the genome by assembling small fragments of artificially synthesised 1,000-odd base pairs and systematically assembled in the lab using molecular tools.

The paper for this effort was published in *Science* and was hailed as a landmark - not just as a technological feat but also vis-à-vis our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of life. As the famous physicist Richard Feynman stated, "What I cannot build, I cannot understand."

This was also why this effort was seen as humankind's baby steps towards engineering life-forms based on evidence, technologies, and an understanding of the fundamental rules of the molecular mechanisms that govern life.

Meet syn3.B

Attempts to modify genomes continued. In 2016, researchers at JCVI and a California-based company named Synthetic Genomics, Inc. (since changed to Viridos) attempted to create a minimal genome by further systematically deleting parts of the genome of *Mycoplasma mycoides*, publishing the results in *Science*.

The researchers' idea was to create a 'bare-minimum' genome and cell that was compatible with life as well as with the possibility that the genome could be used as a bare-bones framework for synthetic biology.

They succeeded in creating a minimal cell deleting around 45% of the genes in the genome of the organism. Specifically, the edited genome had 5,31,000 base pairs and just 473 genes. This newer modified synthetic version was named JCVI-syn3.0.

Additional modifications to the genome resulted in two more versions, dubbed JCVI-syn3.A and JCVI-syn3.B. These versions differed from JCVI-syn3.0 by the addition of 19 non-essential genes, making the two newer versions more optimised for laboratory conditions.

JCVI-syn3.B in particular had an additional genomic locus (a location on the genome) where the researchers could insert new gene fragments and antigens. This is required to allow the genome to bind to a lineage of human cells called the HeLa cell lines, which researchers use widely in laboratory studies. As a result, JCVI-syn3.B could be cultured with human cells.

The barebones genome had the absolute minimum number of genes to be compatible with life.

At the same time, it was widely believed that the resulting organism would be constrained and unlikely to evolve because it had very little wiggle room to adapt to environmental conditions.

But a recent report in *Nature* suggested that this conclusion could be mistaken.

> The ability to write genome sequences has sparked the human imagination, and has provided impetus to a new field of research called synthetic biology

A minimal genome evolves

Researchers led by Jay T. Lennon at Indiana University in Bloomington, U.S., attempted to understand how a synthetic life-form would adapt or evolve over time, especially in situations where the raw materials required to do so could be limited, forcing the genome to die or adapt through evolution.

To understand this, the researchers cultured a bacterial organism in the laboratory for over 300 days, corresponding roughly to 2,000 rounds of replication. The researchers established that this life-form's synthetic genome - which was also minimal - had a robust potential to develop genetic variations.

Now, the researchers conducted an experiment. They mixed the bacteria with a separate bacterial culture in equal numbers, checked whether either population went on to make up more than 50% of the total over time as they varied the environmental conditions. If the minimal bacteria could optimise themselves for the condition, they would out-compete the others that were suboptimal.

As the team expected, the minimal genome was inferior in its ability to compete with the native, non-synthetic *Mycoplasma*. However, to their surprise, the researchers found that the synthetic bacteria that had evolved through 300 days could significantly out-compete the non-evolved minimal version of the organism.

Its own path

The study suggested that synthetic life-forms could evolve through natural processes of evolution and adapt themselves to the environment. The minimisation of the genome didn't constraint natural adaptation.

Additionally, using genome-sequencing, the researchers were able to identify specific genes and regions on the genome that had accumulated genetic variants associated with the adaptation. They also found that the adaptation of the minimal genome took distinctly different steps and paths from that of the native/non-adapted organism, as evidenced by the different genomic regions and genes where the genetic variants accumulated during the process of adaptation.The findings have enormous implications - not just for our ability to understand the natural evolutionary processes of synthetic life but also for the practical applications of synthetic genomes for the industrial-scale production of chemicals and biologicals.

Insights into the evolutionary processes of organisms also open big windows into understanding how antimicrobial resistance emerges, how pathogens evade immune systems, and, possibly, new opportunities to prevent them or be prepared for them.

Sridhar Sivasubbu and Vinod Scaria are scientists at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology. All opinions expressed are personal.

THE GIST

Two more versions of the genome dubbed JCVI-syn3.A and JCVI-syn3.B have been developed. These versions differed from JCVI-syn3.0 by the addition of 19 non-essential genes, making the two newer versions more optimised for laboratory conditions

The researchers found that the synthetic bacteria that had evolved through 300 days could significantly out-compete the non-evolved minimal version of the organism

Insights into the evolutionary processes of organisms also open big windows into understanding how antimicrobial resistance emerges, how pathogens evade immune systems, and, possibly, new opportunities to prevent them or be prepared for them

BIG SHOT

A red rock crab (*Grapsus grapsus*) seen in Tortuga Bay off the Galapagos archipelago in Ecuador. Unusually warm for this time of year, the waters of the Pacific carry a warning to the beaches: El Niño has already begun and could be the most intense phenomenon in decades and a sentence of starvation and death for the black marine iguanas of the archipelago. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Coral bleaching

Arkatapa Basu

Record temperatures around the world have left animals, including humans, in dire straits. Of them, corals are particularly vulnerable: when the water around them becomes too warm, they are susceptible to bleaching.

When corals lose their vibrant colours and turn white, they have bleached. This appearance-based definition is valuable because, just by the corals' pallor, an observer can say that the surrounding water has changed somehow.

There is more to bleaching, however: most corals are home to a type of algae called zooxanthellae, which give the corals their colours as well as have a symbiotic relationship with them. The zooxanthellae provide amino acids and sugars, and receive many minerals and carbon dioxide in return.

When the ocean environment changes – for example, if its temperature rises beyond a point, it becomes too acidic, or it becomes too bright – the zooxanthellae living within the coral leave. As they do, the coral fades until it appears to have been bleached; if the corals continue to be stressed, they won't welcome the algae back and eventually die. Other stressors include low tides and water pollution, as well as ecosystem changes wrought by the climate crisis.

Coral gone white due climate change. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Bleaching is not always a death knell. Some colonies have been known to survive a bleaching event, like, famously, one near Japan's Iriomote Island: it was bleached in 2016 but showed signs of recovery in 2020.

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Shakti: 291 villages in State do not have bus services due to bad roads

All villages served by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation have been connected by bus facility, claims Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government has been successful in implementing the Shakti scheme, women of 291 villages across the State have missed the free bus scheme owing to bad road conditions.

The government has not been able to provide State-run bus transport service to these 291 villages in four divisions of the Road Transport Corporations (RTCs).

A woman showing her ID card in a State-run bus in Dakshina Kannada district to avail herself of free travel under the Shakti scheme.

Shakti scheme in numbers*

- Total villages covered by three RTCs **30,563**
- **291** villages don't have bus services
- **204** villages under KSRTC don't have bus services
- **45** villages under NWKRTC don't have bus services
- **42** villages under KKRTC don't have bus services

* Source: Transport Department

This was stated in the Legislative Council by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy in response to a question on rural bus connectivity in Karnataka. According to data shared by the Transport Minister, 204 villages under the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) lack bus facilities, and so do 45 villages under the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and 42 villages under the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

All villages served by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) have been connected by bus facility, the Minister claimed.

On June 11, the newly-elected Congress government launched the first among five poll guarantees – the Shakti scheme. In this scheme, women can travel for free in non-premium services of State-run buses across Karnataka.

On an average, 55.7 lakh women are travelling daily on State-run buses after the launch of the scheme. Up to July 13, 18.72 crore women travelled across the four RTCs.

Mr. Reddy said that the main reason for the lack of bus facilities to 291 villages is poor road condition, which will not allow heavy vehicles, such as buses, to reach these villages.

"We will make sure that the necessary basic infrastructure is put in place by the agencies concerned so that buses can reach all the villages.

Apart from this, we will conduct route surveys in a phased manner, and will deploy buses in rural parts of Karnataka," Mr Reddy said.

Pvt. medical college ready to offer free education makes a plea to govt.

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A private college in Karnataka has appealed to the government for a new 'special free of cost admission reservation policy (SFCARP),' under which students will be given free medical education on the condition that they work for five years at the same institute after completion of the course.

The Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (SMSIMSR) of Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli, Chickballapur district, has decided to offer free medical education to both 40% government quota seats and 60% for management seats.

The SMSIMSR has requested the State government that the 40% government quota seats be reserved for Karnataka students, including students who have studied the qualifying examination from the educational institutions of the Sri Satya Sai University for Human Excellence or the sponsoring body through SFCARP. The proposal was submitted to the government in the academic year of 2022-23. However, as it was a policy matter and had legal hurdles, the then BJP government set it aside.

Issue raised

Recently, T.B. Jayachandra, Congress MLA from Sira constituency, who is a member of the advisory board, Sri Satya Sai University for Human Excellence, raised the issue in the Assembly. Many Congress and BJP MLAs supported the proposal.

The SMSIMSR was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this March 25. The National Medical Commission (NMC) had permitted it to start the MBBS programme with 100 seats for 2023-24. However, the SMSIMSR has limited this number to 50 this year.

Among these 50 seats, a total of 20 seats (40%) belongs to government quota and 30 (60%) are management quota seats.

The SMSIMSR has decided to reserve 35% of the management quota seats (18) for students from rural educational institutions run by the university or the sponsoring body or the sister concerns of the foundation, 10% of seats (5) for the children of staff, and 15% of seats (7) to the management and the overseas students of the group of foundations or its institutions or sister concerns or the university.

Meanwhile, the SMSIMSR management has also decided to provide free medical education for government quota students and requested the government for the policy and make some special provision for 40% of government quota seats to be reserved for Karnataka students.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Govinda Reddy, Chief Liaison officer of SMSIMSR said, "We are providing free treatment for the patients. Therefore, we need service-minded doctors. Among the 60% of management quota seats, we will offer all these seats to the students of our group of institutions who will abide with all our conditions. But, the problem is with the 40% government quota seats. Therefore, we requested the government to make some special provision for these seats to be reserved for the students of our group of institutions through SFCARP."

However, before giving a special provision under SFCARP to SMSIMSR, the government will have to amend the rules of medical seat sharing regulations, fee regulations, and existing reservation and roster policy. Then, a separate consensual agreement will have to be signed or a separate regulation should be brought.

Now, the Directorate of Medical Education will examine the proposal and send it to the higher office for further action.

"We formed a separate committee to examine the proposal of SMSIMSR for SFCARP. The proposal has been examined and sent to higher office for further deliberation in this regards," said Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 17, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- On Rahul Gandhi's conviction
  bit.ly/rahulgandhiconviction

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'Request' to drop Kannada as a subject elicits sharp reactions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An alleged request from a section of parents of students in Sophia High School to drop Kannada as the second language from eighth grade onwards has elicited sharp reactions on social media.

In screenshots of the chats which were circulated on social media, it emerged that a group of 50 parents have allegedly approached the school to drop Kannada as a subject.

A parent confirmed the claims. "I am not among that group. But some of them have approached the school about the matter as they do not want their children to learn Kannada. While the school has listened to their concerns, there has been no progress in the regard," the parent said.

School denies claims

However, the school management has denied the claim. When asked if the school has scheduled a meeting with the department to discuss the same, Arnavaz K. Kapadia, faculty, Sophia High School, said, "No. We always abide by the rules of the government. We have never dropped Kannada and have been following the government prescribed book".

Officials of the Department of School Education and Literacy clarified that while they had come across the allegations, there had been no complaints against the school so far.

However, there were sharp reactions to the allegations on social media. "We do not need schools that do not teach Kannada in Karnataka," said Mohan Dasari of the Aam Aadmi Party.

Flight bound for Delhi delayed by nearly 2 hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Indigo flight bound for Delhi on Sunday morning was delayed by nearly two hours owing to technical reasons.

Flight 6E 5021, which was scheduled to take off from the Kempegowda International Airport at 5.35 a.m. had to roll back to the parking bay just before its scheduled take-off.

Technical reasons were cited for the rollback. The flight left for Delhi at 7.20 a.m.

Kodavas seek exclusive constituencies on the lines of the one for Buddhists in Sikkim

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Members of the Kodava community, in the hill district of Kodagu, are demanding exclusive, intangible constituencies in Parliament and in the Karnataka Assembly on the lines of the Sangha virtual constituency for the Buddhist monastic community in Sikkim.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving a memorandum from Kodava community in Bengaluru.

The Codava National Council (CNC), a body fighting for autonomy for Kodavas, fears that the community may lose political representation after the delimitation exercise in the year 2026, since the population of the community is coming down.

Kodagu district is one of the smallest districts in Karnataka. It was a Part 'C' State from 1952 to 1956. It was amalgamated with the then Mysuru State (now Karnataka) in 1956.

Recently, CNC members submitted a memorandum to the President, Union Law Minister and Chief Election Commission of India seeking creation of a virtual constituency for the Kodava community.

Nandineravanda U. Nachappa, president of CNC, told *The Hindu*, "Indian government ratified the rights of Buddhist monastic community through the Sangha constituency, which was created in 1958." He argued for a similar arrangement for the Kodavas, who are a unique community but are becoming numerically negligible.

Sangha constituency

The Sangha Assembly constituency is one of the constituencies in the 32-member Assembly of Sikkim.

"The Sangha constituency doesn't exist on the map. This seat is reserved for the Buddhist monastic community of Sikkim – Buddhist monks and nuns. About 3,293 voters registered with the 111 recognized monasteries in Sikkim State are the only ones who can contest and cast their votes for the seat. Kodavas want a similar seat in both the Karnataka Assembly and in Parliament so that we get our own representation since our population is now down to only 70,000 people," Mr. Nachappa explained.

Meanwhile on Saturday, members of the Kodava National Council met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and submitted their other demands, including classification as a Scheduled Tribe and change in the nomenclature from "Kodagaru" as "Kodava". According to a release from the Chief Minister's Office, Mr. Siddaramaiah promised to favourably look into the demands.

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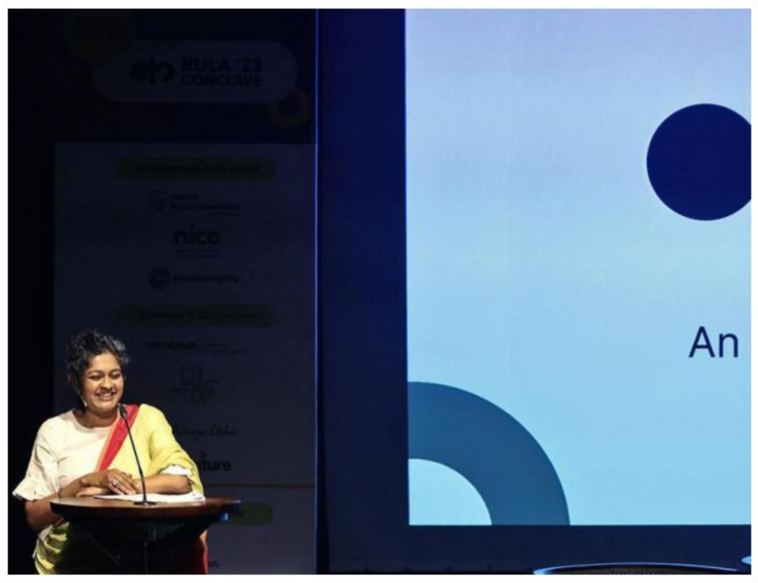
Now is the time to build an ecosystem for India's cultural economy

A conclave of crafts activists held recently in Bengaluru looked at many facets of the cultural economy, including its power and potential

The Hindu spoke to some of the speakers at the Kula Conclave. These are the stories

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

"The time is truly now to finance India's creative and cultural economy and its many MSMEs," says Priya Krishnamoorthy at the recently-concluded Kula Conclave, a networking event that focused on bridging the inclusive finance gap for India's cultural entrepreneurs in the creative manufacturing and handmade sector.



Kula Conclave, is a networking event with a focus on bridging the inclusive finance gap for India's cultural entrepreneurs.

Held at the Bangalore International Centre, the one-day-long event, an initiative of 200 Million Artisans, in collaboration with Yunus Social Business Fund Bengaluru, Creative Dignity and NICEorg, focused on many facets of the cultural economy, including its power and potential, the need for better supply chains, inclusive finance in the craft sector and much more.

The pièce de resistance of the event was the launch of the 2nd edition of *Business of Handmade*, a study that mapped the financing needs and challenges of craft-led MSMEs in the country.

Ms. Krishnamoorthy, the founder and CEO of 200 Million Artisans, an organization that seeks to empower craft-led enterprises, says that it was started as a response to the covid crisis.

What initially started as a space to foreground fundraising evolved into something else.

"We realised that every funder we spoke to asked about data," says Ms. Krishnamoorthy, a broadcast journalist, arts manager and creative impact strategist, pointing out that data was in scarce supply in the craft industry. "That is when we got into research," she says.

Instead of directly working with artisans, the organisation liaises with social enterprises that operate in the crafts sector.

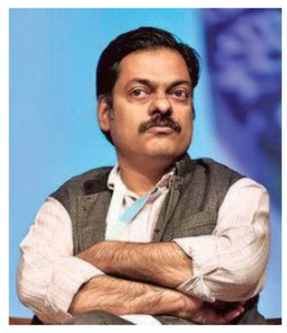
"We mapped the financing needs of these craft-led MSMEs," says, Ms. Krishnamoorthy, talking about the recently-launched report, the culmination of a 12-month-long study.

"India is sitting on a gold mine," she says, pointing out that the country can easily become a responsible hub for consumption and production.

"We are trying to build an ecosystem for this sector," she said.

Sreejith Nedumpully

Co-founder and director, ROPE International


Sreejith Nedumpully, Co-founder and director, ROPE International.

Though India always has had a huge diversity of traditions and craft cultures, getting into the global market has always been challenging. "The products are often not contemporary enough," says, Sreejith Nedumpully, the co-founder and director of ROPE International. While handmade products from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Africa make their way into retail stores in Europe and North America, Indian products are largely absent, he adds.

It is this narrative that ROPE International seeks to alter, ensuring that its range of handmade natural fibre products, including handmade wicker baskets, hand-woven placemats, runners and straw bags, reaches an international audience.

"Going global is the only solution to ensure the livelihood of the artisans," believes Mr. Nedumpully, who co-founded ROPE – Responsibility of People and Environment – along with Patrick Fischer.

Mr. Nedumpully, who holds a master's degree in rural management from The TATA DHAN Academy in Madurai, worked in the microfinance sector for a few years, before becoming a project officer at IIT Madras's incubation cell. In 2008, he co-founded ROPE International, going on to establish a factory in Madurai, which operates in a hub-and-spoke model to ensure both compliance and flexibility.

Nitin Pamnani

Co-founder, iTokri

Nitin Pamnani, Co-founder, iTokri.

Nitin Pamnani, the Co-Founder of iTokri, the country's first e-commerce craft site, takes pride in the diversity of the website's offerings, which includes jewellery and textiles to home décor, ready-to-wear garments, footwear, notebooks, toys and personal care products, among other things. "There is no dearth of products in the crafts sector," says Mr. Pamnani, who founded iTokri with his wife, Jia, back in 2012.

Mr. Pamnani, who holds a degree in Hindi literature from Delhi University, was working as a documentary filmmaker at the national capital before deciding to start iTokri. "I wanted to move back to Gwalior to be with my family," he says.

The couple had always been in love with handmade stuff and so decided to foray into it, taking a couple of years to build the technology and network needed to sustain an e-commerce marketplace. The business, which started in a single room with around 5-10 people, is today operated out of a 15,000 sq ft warehouse and has 200 people, mostly women, working for the brand.

"We have grown organically," says Mr. Pamnani, adding that while they have been bootstrapped so far, they are now open to funding to accelerate their growth, provided it is the right partner.

Lakshya Arora

Co-founder, Desi Hangover

Lakshya Arora, Co-founder, Desi Hangover.

Lakshya Arora, the co-founder of Desi Hangover, which produces handcrafted shoes made of ethically sourced, upcycled leather using the Khavani craft technique, says that the enterprise began as a "passion project," ten years ago.

"My co-founder and I met on an internship in Egypt in 2013," says Mr. Arora, who holds a bachelor's degree in English Honors from Punjab University. They were living with interns from 25 different countries, who liked the Kolhapuri chappals that they both wore. "We had brought it off the street, but they were so appreciative of it. There was something we were missing here," he says, adding that the two decided, at that point, to go to India and find out where these shoes were made.

So, they did exactly that, first visiting Kolhapur, which they soon realised was only a trading town, and later the villages around the city, where shoes were actually made. For the next year and a half, they kept visiting and revisiting these places, documenting and sorrows and joys of the people who lived and worked there. On their excursions here, they discovered that despite the skill and legacy embedded in the craft, there was also the real threat of it dying out. "The kids of these craftspeople were working as labourers," he says, pointing out that innovation, design and opportunity were lacking.

It is what Desi Hangover hopes to address, with its range of stylish shoes which both manage to fit into a contemporary design framework as well as preserve the intricate centuries-old tradition. The co-founders, currently work with around 140 artisans in Belgaum, to create these shoes that are later exported, sold in Fabindia and Metro outlets or sold on their website. "We plan to grow further," says Mr. Arora, who hopes to integrate even more artisans of this cluster into their business over the years.

Nivedita Rai

Co-founder, Karghewale

Nivedita Rai Karghewale
Co-founder, Karghewale.

Nivedita Rai is clear about one thing: the best way to sustain the handicraft industry is to create more artisan entrepreneurs. That is what Karghewale is all about. "We are an incubator for artisan enterprises," she says.

Ms. Rai, a rural management graduate by education, has been deeply embedded in the crafts landscape for a while now. She served as the executive director of the Gudi Mudi Khadi project, which came under the WomenWeave Charitable Trust, founded by Sally Holkar.

"The genesis of Karghewale happened there," says Ms. Rai, who co-founded the enterprise in 2020, along with Sourodip Ghosh.

According to her, simply providing enough work will not sustain the handloom sector since it simply does not generate a high-enough income. "A lot of young artisans are leaving the profession because there is simply not enough money to sustain them," she points out, adding that the average wage for a weaver was around ₹5000/month.

Lot of young artisans are leaving the profession because there is simply not enough money.

"We strongly believe that what will sustain the craft is not the wage worker approach," she says. "It is important that artisans own the design and gain creative and market agency to take the vocation seriously."

Karghewale, which has received investments from StartUp India Seed Fund Scheme, CIIE.Co, and most recently, R.I.S.E. Artisan Fund, helps young artisans, who are graduates of WomenWeave's The Handloom School establish themselves as entrepreneurs by ensuring that they go through an incubation framework. So far, they have incubated 25 artisan entrepreneurs, a number that continues to grow. "The plan is to incubate at least 1000," says Ms. Rai.

Rich weaves of India on display at heritage site

The exhibition showcases the diverse materials, processes, and designs of handlooms from regions across the nation.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HAMPI

JSW Foundation is hosting Woven Narratives: Indian handlooms as Creative and Cultural Industries, a handloom textile exhibition curated by textile designer, writer and curator, Mayank Mansingh Kaul, at the heritage site of Hampi.

The exhibition features a selection of artworks from the collections of art patrons Sangita Jindal and Devi Art Foundation. It has been conceptualised by the G20 Culture Working Group (CWG), Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

It was formally inaugurated on July 13, and it was previewed to the G20 Culture Working Group, said a release.

The Woven Narratives exhibition is being showcased at Hampi Art Labs in honour of the G20 Sherpa Delegation, G20 Culture Working Groupand Ministry of Culture, Government of India, visiting JSW Vijayanagar Works and Hampi heritage site.

"The exhibition showcases the rich textile tradition of our country and narrates the stories of global influences and exchanges," said the release. Works on display include Ikats, Brocades, Carpets and Cotton Weaves from across the length and breadth of the country.

When the mind is at sea, a new word provides a raft

The solutions seem to be pulling in the direction of the binary, which was the original no-no

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Sir Walter Scott must be preparing to turn in his grave. Remember these lines from his 19th century poem *Marmion*? "O woman! in our hours of ease/ Uncertain, coy, and hard to please... When pain and anguish wring the brow/ A ministering angel thou!"

We might soon have to replace 'woman', which seems to be gradually dropping out of the language.

Will those lines have the same impact if we say, "O uterus-haver..." (which is one suggestion). Or if we accept the proposal of an organisation which advises on such matters, and use 'O those with bonus holes!' The thought that this could be a substitute for 'woman' tells us how mixed-up the issue is. Those who think 'woman' should remain in the language are being called TERF (trans exclusionary radical feminists).

The plan to avoid upsetting transgenders and non-binary folk will upset a larger constituency, the one which prefers 'woman' to the roundabout ways of referring to that gender. Especially through unique anatomical attributes (a woman, we learn is also a chest-feeder, a cervix-carrier; but even apologists for such terms were aghast when in 2021 *The Lancet* carried a cover in which women were called "bodies with vaginas").

The Bank of England recently removed "mother" from its family leave policy, using the term "birthing parent" instead. And Cancer Research UK has urged "anyone with a cervix" to be screened.

While it is true that semantic degradation of women or linguistic sexism exists, the proposed solutions seem to be pulling in the direction of the binary, which was the original no-no. 'Non-man' for woman is a tip of the hat to this; it also defines a woman in relation to man, thus perpetuating the initial bias. There is a school of thought which is agitated that such words as 'bitch' and 'whore' do not have male equivalents. That seems to be taking the equality argument another step lower.

The plan to avoid upsetting transgenders and non-binary folk will upset a larger constituency.

Now that the non-binary nature of gender is accepted, perhaps it is natural that battles, originally fought on the streets should move into dictionaries and grammar books.

"They" as a personal pronoun now includes those who were earlier referred to as "he" or "she" and incorporates "anybody else".

And it works. Language is important. Some experts have pointed out that since the word "chairperson" became acceptable, women have psychologically understood they could occupy the chair and have cleared a mental barrier.

"She's beautiful, and therefore to be wooed/She is a woman, therefore to be won," wrote Shakespeare in *Henry VI*. See how this sounds: "They are beautiful and therefore to be wooed/They are a chest-feeder, therefore to be won.

Both Scott and Shakespeare are guilty of gender stereotyping by today's standards.

The answer to all this might lie in creating a word out of thin air. One with no baggage. Take the word 'broaks', for example, which I got from an online nonsense word generator.

Fill it with meaning, use it as a non-binary term and let's move on to other issues.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1973

Jan Sangh urges Demonetisation

Hubli, July 16: The General Council of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh to-day urged demonetisation with a view to bringing out black money and a basic change in the taxation policy of the Government to prevent future accumulation of black money.

The economic policy resolution adopted on the opening day of the three-day session wanted indirect taxation on essential commodities to be minimised and taxation be restricted to single point.

While pleading for the removal of control on the distribution of yarn, the delegates' conference urged that coal and cement should be made available to consumers in sufficient quantity. Along with crop insurance the conference also wanted the Government to introduce cattle insurance.

Cane-Growers' threat to Mandya Sugar Factory

Bangalore, July 16: The Mysore Sugar Company in Mandya, in which the State Government holds controlling interest, is facing a threat from a section of cane growers to stop supplies. The growers demand an upward revision in the price of sugarcane.

The Mandya District Farmers and Workers' Association has sent a letter containing a three-point demand.

EDUCATIONPLUS

It's all in the mind

Incorporating mindfulness practices into the curriculum will help students cultivate the skills required to become caring and committed citizens

Sachu Ramalingam

The world is fast-paced, competitive, and stressful and, unfortunately, children often face anxiety and burnout, as they navigate the push and pull of competitive student life.

In this fast-moving environment, the inclusion of mindfulness practices in the curriculum has the potential to make a significant impact in the current environment by addressing the high rates of mental health issues, stress, and anxiety and significantly improve emotional regulation, attention and focus, creativity, and problem-solving skills while also building compassion and empathy among students.

Mindfulness exercises can also teach valuable socio-emotional skills like self-regulation, empathising, compassion, kindness, and respect for others. By incorporating mindfulness practices into education, youngsters can cultivate the skills they need in order to become caring and committed citizens capable of dealing with the curve balls that adulthood throws up.

GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTOS

Managing stress

Many studies have stated that mindfulness meditation reduces anxiety and improves adult stress reactivity. A report on the U.S.-based National Library of Medicine states that mindfulness can help adolescents become more aware of thoughts and emotions and learn to respond to them in a non-judgmental way and reduce anxiety. Mindfulness training can help youngsters develop soft skills to manage stressful situations, such as paying attention to their breath and body sensations and responding to challenging thoughts and emotions with kindness and compassion. A study by Deakin University and InsightSRC in 2016 found that implementing mindfulness programmes in educational institutions can improve mental health, reduce classroom disruptions, benefit at-risk students, support early childhood development, increase student engagement, and even minimise childhood anxiety. Mindfulness, the study argues, is essential for the general well-being of students and can help them become focused and engaged learners. Social Emotional Learning (SEL), which involves acquiring knowledge and skills aiding in positive social and emotional development, is essential to mindfulness practices. It should be a critical part of the curriculum, curated by teachers and supported by counsellors.

Mindfulness practices, such as meditation or deep breathing exercises, can also help students become aware of their thoughts and emotions, and learn how to manage them.

Integrate with SEL

Mindfulness practices can be integrated into SEL to teach students the benefits of techniques and skills such as whole-body scan, meditation, loving-kindness meditation, and gratitude. These practices help develop self-awareness, emotional regulation, and empathy.

The institution should put systems in place to nurture mental health. It can be done by creating a supportive environment by providing counselling services, creating a positive and happiness-oriented culture, and encouraging healthy behaviour and practices.

In addition, it is essential to educate students to identify and seek professional help if and when they experience mental health issues.

Being empathetic is vital to creating a culture of mental health sensitisation in educational institutions. Empathy at the primary level is the ability to comprehend and share feelings. Though live experiences play a vital part, students can learn about the need to be kind and compassionate and develop empathy towards peers through exercises such as role-play, multiple group discussions, and other interactive activities.

Peer influence is a significant factor in mental health and positive peer influence has a profound impact on social and emotional development. For example, research has shown that students with positive and supportive peer relationships are more likely to experience academic success, have higher self-esteem, and be more resilient to stress.

A study by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) discovered that students participating in SEL programs focussed on positive peer relationships had improved academic performance, better social skills, and fewer behaviour problems.

In addition, institutions can provide opportunities for students to interact with others and share interests and values through hobby and sports clubs, which help form positive friendships.

Beyond oneself

Enabling students to rise above self is vital for mental health sensitisation. It involves building skills that help students comprehend and act on others' emotions and feelings and can be achieved through community service projects, peer mentoring programmes, and activities that promote social responsibility.

Channelising energy effectively is crucial for maintaining good mental health. Stress and anger can cause a significant amount of emotional and physical tension. It can be channelised through physical activity that releases endorphins, reduces stress and boosts mood. Mindfulness practices, such as meditation or deep breathing exercises, can also help students become aware of their thoughts and emotions, and learn how to manage them. Research has shown yoga can reduce stress, improve mental health, and enhance academic performance. It can be integrated into physical education classes or offered as an extracurricular activity.

Thus, the need for mindfulness practices is critical in helping students develop essential socio-emotional skills and to create a culture of mental health sensitisation and empower students.

The writer is the Lead, Centre of Well-Being, Lighthouse Learning.

SCHOLARSHIPS

IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship
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www.b4s.in/edge/IFBMS4

Kotak Junior Scholarship
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Rewards: ₹3,000 per month.
Application: Online
Deadline: July 31
www.b4s.in/edge/KJSP1

Raman Kant Munjal Scholarship
Eligibility: Students who are Indian nationals and in the first year of BBA, BFIA, B.Com. (H.E.), BMS, IPM, B.A. (Economics), BBS, BBI, BAF, and B.Sc. (Statistics) or any other finance-related degree course and have secured minimum 80% marks in Classes 10 and 12. Annual family income should be less than ₹4 lakhs.
Rewards: Up to ₹ 5,00,000 per year for three years.
Application: Online
Deadline: September 15
www.b4s.in/edge/RMKSP1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

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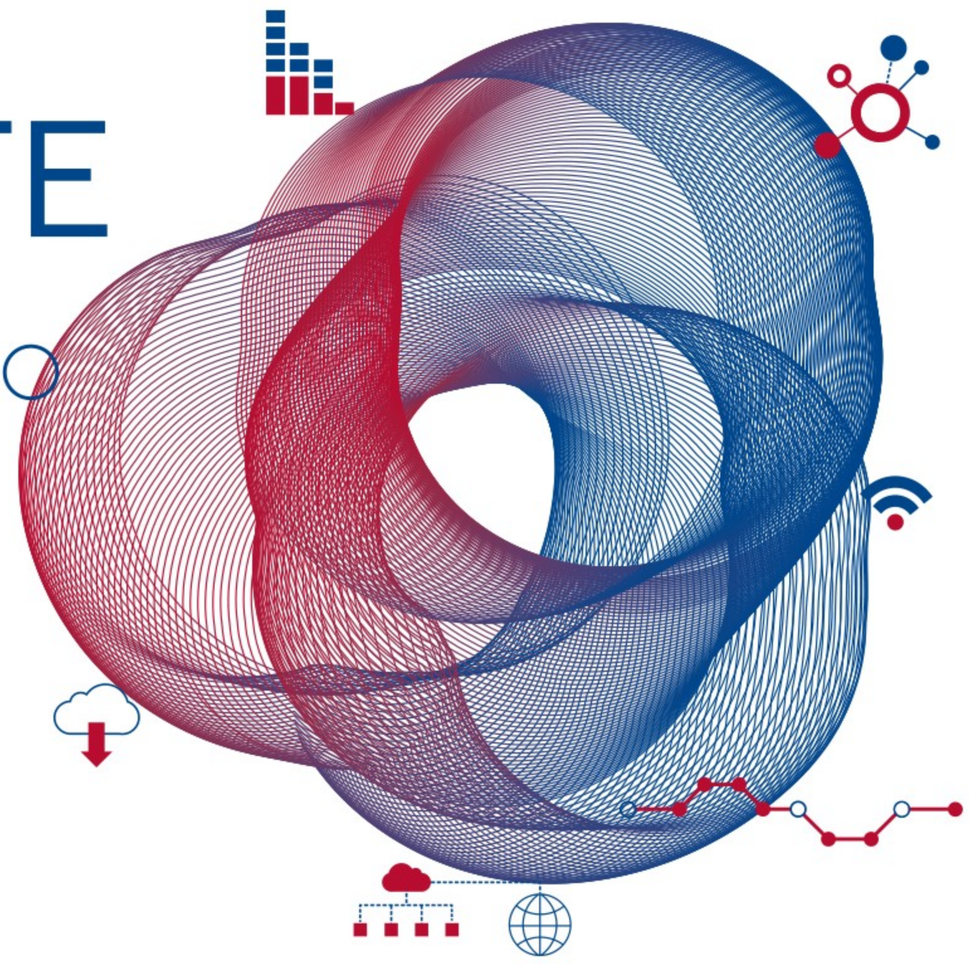

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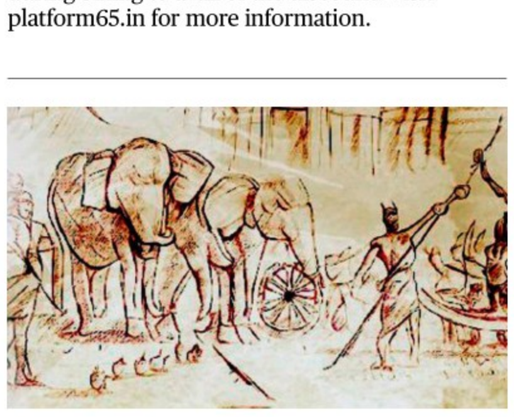
CITYBEATS

Railway feast

JULY 13 ONWARDS
Platform 65, a toy-train-themed restaurant, is announcing 18% discount exclusively for Indian railway employees in all its outlets. Platform 65 extends this offer as a gesture of gratitude. Railway employees can present their ID cards during billing to avail of the discount. Visit platform65.in for more information.



Talking history

JULY 18
The book launch event of *The Indians: Histories of a Civilization* will take place on July 18 at Bangalore International Centre. G N Devy, with Ravi Korisettar, will discuss the project's process and enigmatic historical issues explored in the book. Eminent historian Ramachandra Guha will receive the first copy and share his views on this comprehensive collective initiative.

Taste of Italy

JULY 17
Brik Oven is introducing their latest menu, the Il Panuozzo. Launching on July 17, this street-food sandwich originating from Italy is now available at all Brik Oven outlets in Bengaluru. The menu features six different sandwiches, including the classic Caprese, the grilled mushroom and peppers, the seafood, and the roasted lamb. Visit any Brik Oven outlet from 11 am to 7 pm.

Child's plays

What to look for at AHA! Ranga Shankara Theatre For Children Festival 2023

Praveen Sudevan

Actor, writer, and director Rupesh Tillu makes a strong case for how children's theatre is, in a way, unadulterated compared to theatre for adults. "I feel that the evolution of theatre over time has somewhat diminished the magic it once had," he says, "Traditional art forms in India, like Kathakali and Bharatnatyam, were always interactive with the audience when they originated, often performed in temples. However, with the rise of proscenium theatre in the 19th century, it became more detached, resembling cinema where the audience is a passive observer."

Rupesh regrets the disappearance of playfulness in theatrical performances. "After all, it's called a 'play' for a reason, right? Sometimes, we get so caught up in the literary aspects of it that we forget to have fun and enjoy ourselves." Children's theatre, however, goes beyond words and dialogue, delving deep into subtext, where the unspoken is as significant as the spoken.

It speaks directly to the senses, engaging sight, sound, and movement to create a truly immersive experience. Unlike theatre for adults, children's theatre transcends the realm of intellect, tapping into raw and instinctual responses. Rupesh, hence, is happy to be a part of the annual AHA! Ranga Shankara Theatre For Children Festival 2023, beginning from July 19. His 45-minute non-verbal performance, *Bags of Gags*, will be the final one of the festival.

'Gift of good theatre'
The theatre festival, now in its 14th year, centres around the theme 'Life is Beautiful.' It will feature five plays, storytelling, theatre games, and

Children's theatre goes beyond words and dialogue, where the unspoken is as significant as the spoken

clowning workshops, helping children explore the beauty of the world around them.

"There is no magic wand to change things. In this bleak landscape, however, there is cause for celebration, too," says Arundhati Nag, Director of Ranga Shankara. "A network of people concerned about what art is presented to children is coming together across India. A clutch of talented theatre makers who believe that the early years are the time of maximum absorption and this is the time when the power of ideas and imagination are to be kindled in children to create good memories is making fine, age-specific work. We are showcasing five such nuggets at this festival. I would like parents and teachers to give their children the gift of good theatre and reiterate that 'Life is Beautiful.'"

Having fun Scenes from 'Hanv Ghara Asa', 'Bags of Gags' and 'Just Hiss'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The five plays offer a delightful variety of experiences for audiences. From exploring the concept of home through objects and materials to unravelling hidden worlds, embarking on quests to bring hope, and showcasing the magic of clowns, each play brings a unique perspective and engages audiences with its distinctive themes and storytelling techniques.

Do not preach
The festival commences with Vivek Vijayakumaran's English-Hindi-Kannada play *Just Hiss*, which is about non-violence and forgiveness. Vivek, who is making a play for children for the first time, believes in not speaking down to them. "Though the play talks about co-existence, non-violence, and human-nature conflict, we avoided being preachy or moralistic," he says.

Rupesh, too, believes theatre is not a platform to preach. "The younger generation doesn't want that anymore; they can find such guidance on YouTube," he says. "Nowadays, people crave experiences that engage them. So, we encourage our audiences to come together as families and celebrate moments, especially with children who can learn to laugh together."

Sananda Mukhopadhyaya, who specialises in creating performances for toddlers, reckons art for children need not solely focus on educational outcomes. "Why should an art experience for young audiences solely be viewed as a learning opportunity?" she asks, "Can't it simply be an art experience for the mind, soul, and senses? When we engage in art, we don't approach every encounter with the expectation of learning something specific. However, when it comes to children, we often feel the need to infuse every experience with a learning objective."

Sananda's Konkani's play *Hanv Ghara Asa* (which means 'I am Home') attempts, through songs and some objects, to take the viewer on a journey of what it truly means to be home. "In the plays I create, I prefer to have less reliance on text, instead embracing silence and stillness to counteract the overstimulation children often experience in urban environments. By designing text-free plays, I aim to provide a more immersive and contemplative experience," she says.

Essential medium of art
All three directors - Sananda, Rupesh, and Vivek - agree that theatre plays a role in the overall development and enrichment of children's lives. They reckon live performances play a vital role, particularly for children constantly surrounded by digital devices.

"Live theatre has the power to bring images to life, sparking children's imaginations and allowing them to actively participate in the unfolding story. Unlike the passive nature of digital media, live performances offer a sense of accessibility and immediate connection," says Vivek.

Rupesh, meanwhile, believes theatre should be a part of the educational curriculum. "We teach everyone to be highly skilled professionals like engineers and doctors. We provide them with the knowledge and expertise required for their chosen careers. However, one crucial aspect that often goes overlooked is teaching them how to navigate human interactions. Theatre teaches you that you cannot achieve anything alone, that you need people to succeed," he says.

For information on the schedule and tickets visit rangashankara.org

Sajita Nair's book maps social changes in turn-of-the-century Kerala

Saraswathy Nagarajan

Matriarchs and ancestral homes are never far away from creative spaces when writers from Kerala spin stories. This time it is army officer-turned-author Sajita Nair who has centred her latest novel, *The Grande Matriarch of Malabar*, on a matriarch and her complex relationship with her *tharavadu* (ancestral house).

One of the first women to be inducted into the Indian Army, Sajita has moved away from cantonments and barracks to an old ancestral home in Kozhikode and its owner, a canny woman who will go to any length to protect her *tharavadu*.

While her first book, *She's a Jolly Good Fellow*, was semi-autobiographical, detailing her life in the Army, the second, *The Army Officer's Wife and Other Stories*, was a collection of short stories. Her third book was about an adopted daughter and her unconventional choices in life.

Speaking on phone from Indiranagar in Bengaluru, Sajita says she had always wanted to write a story about a *tharavadu*. She researched on the subject by reading about matrilineal families, matriarchy and joint families in Kerala. "My parents, especially my father, used to tell me a lot of stories about their ancestral homes. I have derived inspiration from his stories to write this book. I wish my father had been alive to read this."

The Grande Matriarch of Malabar is set during a period of cataclysmic changes in Kerala's social set-up; a time when joint families began to disintegrate and people started shifting from an agrarian lifestyle to pursue higher education and professional careers.

Weathering the storm
Dakshayani Amma, the unlikely heroine of Sajita's book, is forced to move with the times although she tries to cling to her beliefs from another era. Her decisions and motives are all influenced by her fierce desire to protect her 100-plus-year-old house even when her choices hurt her family's interests.

Deep rooted Sajita Nair's 'The Grande Matriarch of Malabar' tells of a strong-willed woman's attachment to her ancestral home. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A renowned joint family in Kozhikode, Kalyedath, goes through several ups and downs when changing social mores, lifestyles and economic conditions collide with traditional conventions and feudal ways of life.

Young Dakshayani continues staying with her mother and uncles although her husband wishes to live with his family. As a result, Dakshayani's children are dependent on her uncles. However, it is when she is blessed with a daughter that the matriarch ignores everyone else for her daughter. Her differently-abled daughter becomes the focus of her life. Her sons are forced to play second fiddle to her daughter. Things go topsy-turvy when Dakshayani's daughter does not fall in with her plans.

Initially, Sajita wanted the house to tell its story, but her editors felt it would be better to have a person tell the story. "This was a novel that I rewrote several times. I took time to complete the story as I lived in the heads of many of the people who feature in the book."

Having come from an Army background, Sajita says she often gets suggestions from her literary agents to write about life in the Indian Defence services. And who should know it better than Sajita, an Air Force officer's daughter who got married to a naval officer, Sajan Abraham, and was an officer in the army? She says her next book is on the life of the submariners in the navy as not much has been written about them.

Splash of colour Hoyas in bloom. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Exotic hoya thrives on city balconies

Marianne De Nazareth

"So what if I live in an apartment!" seems to be the battle cry of most green-fingered gardeners in Bengaluru city. In fact, there are many gardeners growing exotic flowers such as orchids and the Australian hoya on their balconies, which are blooming profusely in pots.

"Hoyas are finicky and need a lot of care in the first few years of their growth," says Steven Mario, a content writer who lives in Richmond Town. "My aunt brought me a piece of the *Hoya Carnosa*, from Perth, West Australia and it has taken five whole years to establish itself and flower. The plant is a vine and needs to be pot bound to be able to stress it to flower. I have let it creep all over the balcony railings and now there is an explosion of pink blooms that last for at least 15-20 days."

"Mine are a mass of white blooms called *H. Australis,*" shares Reena Chengappa who lives in Cook Town and owns a hydroponic farm.

Reena has three varieties of hoya of which she says only two have flowered till now. "White is my baby," she says with pride. "And brings in an adorable pair of sunbirds as well as bees to my balcony, as the plant has crept all over the railings creating a fantastic green-scented curtain."

Steven owns a pink hoya. "It has crept all over the balcony railings and bees keep buzzing by all day to sip on the nectar. We swirl water in empty milk and curd packets and also give them the water that we wash rice and daal with," he says.

"I also have a *Hoya Diversifolia* which is a deep magenta colour. I use our kitchen waste – vegetable and fruit peels as manure. I soak them in water for a week and use that for the plants. I also dry the peels and grind them to use as potting soil, with coffee dregs and eggshell powder," says Reena.

Snehalatha Naidu, a teacher, has a chocolate brown hoya on her balcony. She says she got her cutting from her gardener. "The plant is hardy and grows well at my place; it has flowered several times in the past year. However, when I first got the plant several years ago, it took six months for the first buds to appear. Today, it is the pride and joy of my balcony and the flowers have a faint scent."

THE HINDU
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Karnataka Education Review

For a bright future...

A Space Marketing Initiative

The Education Ecosystem of NEP:

Learner's freedom of choice in the Higher Education system

The education terrain is faced with a dynamic shift in current times with the growth and advancement in science and technology. Owing to these changes, the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020, supports the learning of not just the fundamental knowledge systems, but also the development of cognitive abilities of the learners. NEP, with reference to the Higher Education scenario, fosters a positive change in the way knowledge must be cultivated among the youth of the nation.

The strategic inclusion of skill-based courses, multi-disciplinary courses and the Ability enhancement courses would leverage the way our country progresses.

With the implementation of NEP, many colleges and universities across the country see an advantage that the learners would have in the given scheme. The programme structure and course outcomes are mapped out to address the learning needs of the current times. NEP focuses on providing Learners with multiple course combinations with no hard separation of streams and subjects. Setting the time frame to achieve this by 2030, the country wishes to see the disappearance of single stream, single track education and witness the benefit of a more inclusive form of instruction.

This would have a tremendous impact on the learners during their graduation days allowing them to experiment with various subject combinations. A student majoring in a science course may take up another subject from another stream or take a multi-disciplinary course and benefit from such fluidity. Such freedom to explore knowledge across different domains is the greatest advantage of the policy.

The scope of such integrated learning would soon be visible as the job market and economy would change, thereby having a global impact. Learners, with the freedom to choose subject combinations would be able to explore newer dimensions of knowledge system leading to critical insights in processing theoretical orientation and to discover opportunities to create ways of using that knowledge.

As rightly documented in NEP, education should focus on enhancing the growth and development of a nation through critical thinking and problem-solving approach. Basing its education philosophy in the erstwhile universities of India, it aspires to fulfil the whole-person development through its education system.

The primary focus of the NEP is in increasing the critical thinking skills and cognitive abilities of Young India. India has over 1100 Universities, with about 400 state public universities and about 350 state private universities, and then we have the central and Deemed universities, institutions of National importance, open universities, and other universities.

As per the All India Survey on Higher Education, the country witnessed more than four crore enrolment in higher education in the year 2021 (with the number only going up with every passing year).

The availability of education to the masses is a privilege that our country enjoys. With the launch of the NEP, the young population of the country are here to enjoy a unique privilege in the form of refined education system that would harness not just their growth but also the growth of the nation.

The ancient Indian universities practised pedagogical methods far advanced for its times and contributed significantly to the growth and development of the Indian knowledge system and subsequently the economy. NEP aspires to recreate the ancient culture of learning by offering a multi-disciplinary engagement and bolstering the existing pedagogical practises to integrate classical approach with a modern outlook.

Logic, reasoning, didactic thinking, rational debates, abstraction, ethical decision making, and problem-solving approach would be the way forward in the classrooms.

The ancient universities were knowledge hubs, and the production and dissemination of knowledge happened from and through these spaces. With this thought foregrounded, if colleges and universities imbibe the spirit of the policy and work towards fulfilling the philosophy behind this education policy, our country would stand out in the global context.

Breaking free from the single stream, single degree form of education, the NEP provides learners with a variety of subject combinations, thereby allowing newer discourses to emerge from such interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.

The vision of NEP inspires and encourages the teachers and learners to explore new ideas and thoughts beyond the boundaries of a linear knowledge system. In this light, the multidisciplinary courses are offered to stimulate innovative thinking and critical problem-solving skills. With the aim to bring back the methods of the yesteryears, NEP rightly emphasises on a multi-disciplinary approach modelling the practices of the ancient Indian universities. With its emphasis on "well-rounded" individuals, the zealous effort of the policy is to catalyse a movement towards non-linear thinking and action. By listing sports, arts, and other creative forms as crucial to an individual's growth and development, the policy is here to bring a change. Value education, community engagement and environmental education are considered vital in the current policy with an aim to promote responsible and engaged behaviour from young citizens. When rightly manifested, the policy will incite a welcoming change among young learners, allowing them to participate in social activities and services and provide solutions to day-to-day concerns of a growing nation.

Another key highlight of the policy is the GCED, Global Citizenship Education that aims to promote awareness of global issues and to empower learners towards becoming confident global citizens.

Providing learners with the skills required on an international platform and with exposure to the needs around the world, learners will become active citizens supporting a sustainable development of the country.

The fact that NEP highlights the advantages of Arts and Humanities, and the Social Sciences shows how these domains contribute significantly to ideation, theorisation, and discourse formation.

This is an integral part of a knowledge ecosystem and would generate new forms of thoughts and expositions.

While there is flexibility and freedom offered to the learners in terms of choices and modus operandi, the policy doesn't fail to demand an accountable behaviour from the learners.

It also creates a conducive space for the teachers through its insistence on "re-establishing" teachers as "essential members" of the society.

This then levels up the expectations from the teachers and boosts the onus of the learners, considering both as responsible individuals contributing to the future of the nation.

In addition to all these, NEP proposes to promote Indian languages, arts and culture, supports adult education and lifelong learning and provides professional education opportunities.

The benefits of NEP 2020 are manifold. If materialised effectively the education face of the country will change substantially, attracting learners from across the world. NEP's fundamental aim is to recreate a space where learners learn by thinking, by doing, by questioning, by reasoning, by debating and by creating. The future that would be created by young learners would be a world full of innovations and transformations.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Decline in automobile exports from India in first quarter of FY24

28 in percentage. Automobile exports from India declined in the April-June period this year due to the monetary crisis in Africa and other developing countries, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. PTI

The record high hit by credit card spending in the month of May

1.4 in ₹ lakh crore. The total spending on credit cards, which remained consistent throughout the year in the previous fiscal, rose by 5% month on month this year, according to RBI data. The number of cards in use crossed 87.4 million in May. PTI

Commonwealth weightlifting championship medals

20 medals. India won nine gold, nine silver and two bronze medals in the sports tournament held in Greater Noida. Indian lifters reigned supreme in the five-day tournament in all three categories — youth, junior and senior. PTI

Amount spent by Delhi Jal Board under Yamuna Action Plan-III

1,011 in ₹ crore. Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said they received ₹1,071.34 crore from the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) in the last eight years. The DJB said it received ₹205 crore from NMCG in the last five years. PTI

Foreign Portfolio Investments in the first fortnight of July

30,600 in ₹ crore. The FPI flow into the Indian equity market remained unabated in the first fortnight of this month, driven by India's growth. PTI

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Legal battle: Congress supporters stage a 'silent satyagraha' against the Gujarat High Court verdict on the defamation case against party leader Rahul Gandhi, at Shaheed Smarak in Lucknow on July 12. ANI

On Rahul Gandhi's conviction

The Constitution of India under Article 19(2) had declared "defamation" as one among the exceptions to free speech. In criminal defamation, the actual harm inflicted or suffering caused is not a condition to constitute offence as intention or knowledge is sufficient

LETTER & SPIRIT

Abhilash M.R.

The Gujarat High Court verdict on Rahul Gandhi's criminal revision petition raises pertinent questions on defamation, disqualification and electoral representation law. The High Court was deciding on an application challenging the refusal of the Sessions Court to suspend the order of conviction against Mr. Gandhi under Section 389 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The Court ultimately denied relief to the petitioner relying on the principle that a stay of conviction is not a rule but an exception to be resorted to in rare cases.

The verdict that this case does not fall in the category of such rare cases is central to the animated debate on this issue.

Speech and reputation

The Constitution of India under Article 19(2) had declared "defamation" as one among the exceptions to free speech which was thereby validated under Sections 499 and 500 (dealing with the definition and punishment of defamation cases) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). One is accused of criminal defamation when an imputation is made with the intention to harm, or having reason to believe that it will harm, the reputation of a person. In criminal defamation, the actual harm inflicted or suffering caused is not a condition to constitute offence as intention or knowledge is sufficient.

The comment by Mr. Gandhi, "why all thieves have Modi surname" is found penal under Section 499 that makes defamatory an imputation concerning "a company or an association or collection of persons as such." The applicability of the expression "collection of persons" to Mr. Gandhi's remark is the fulcrum of the case. The Magistrate Court was of the opinion that people with the surname Modi or belonging to the Modi community constitute an identifiable class and pronounced the accused guilty with maximum possible sentence.

Earlier judgments on defamation

In one of its pioneering pronouncements on defamation law, the Supreme Court in *Sahib Singh Mehra versus State of Uttar Pradesh* (1965) relied on the criteria of identifiability and definitiveness as determinants to fall in the category of a "collection of persons", in order to rule that public prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors at Aligarh constitute a definite and identifiable category.

Further, the judgment of the Allahabad High Court in *Tek Chand Gupta versus R. K. Karanjia and Ors.* (1967) stated that the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) having a constitution for itself establishes it as an association or collection of persons which is not indefinite and unidentifiable. This definition was affirmed by the Supreme Court in *G. Narasimhan versus T. V. Chokkappa* (1972), wherein it quashed complaints, against office bearers of certain newspapers including *The Hindu,* which alleged that newspaper reports on a resolution passed in a conference organised by the Dravida Kazhagam in 1971 was defamatory. The Court said that the conference was not a determinate and identifiable body to be considered a "collection of persons".

In the light of these precedents, it would be interesting to see whether the apex court would view people bearing the surname Modi as an identifiable or definite class in order to be called a "group of persons".

'Purity in politics'

The categoric refusal of the Gujarat High Court to grant a stay on the conviction was also premised on the "need of the hour to have purity in politics". This observation seems to have gone against the view of the Kerala High Court which recently stayed the conviction of Mohammed Faizal, the MP of Lakshadweep, under Section 307 of the IPC (attempt to murder), after taking note of the representative nature of his office. The Court held that "on consideration of various legal and other circumstances and special features arising out of this case, this court is of the view that the case of the second petitioner [the MP] falls within the category of rare and exceptional circumstances. The ramifications of not suspending the conviction are enormous." Interestingly, the Supreme Court refused to stay the order of the Kerala High Court in Mr. Faizal's case when the UT administration came on appeal. The term of sentence imposed in this case was ten years rigorous imprisonment whereas in the defamation case, the sentence is for two years.

Relevant precedents

The concurrent views held by the Sessions Court and the Gujarat High Court have cast a shadow of uncertainty over the parliamentary membership of Mr. Gandhi. It is germane to note that the Supreme Court in a plethora of judgments had well chiselled the jurisprudence on suspending an order of conviction. A three Judge bench in *Rama Narang versus Ramesh Narang & Ors.* (1995) held that "in certain situations the order of conviction can be executable, in the sense, it may incur a disqualification as in the instant case. In such a case the power under Section 389(1) of the Code could be invoked. In such situations the attention of the Appellate Court must be specifically invited to the consequence that is likely to fall to enable it to apply its mind to the issue since under Section 389(1) it is under an obligation to support its order 'for reasons to be recorded by it in writing'."

Relying on this judgment, the Supreme Court in *Navjot Singh Sidhu versus State Of Punjab & Anr* (2007), suspended the order of conviction to enable the cricketer turned politician to contest the election. Even in *Lily Thomas versus Union of India* (2013), through which Section 8 (4) of the Representation of People Act (1951) was struck down, the Supreme Court rebutted in explicit terms the concern that the disqualified legislator would become helpless by quoting from the *Rama Narang* judgment (1995) that the power to stay the order of conviction would remain unscathed.

However, the Supreme Court has been reluctant to stay convictions in corruption cases as was seen in *State of Tamil Nadu versus A. Jaganathan* (1996) and *K.C. Sareen versus C.B.I., Chandigarh* (2001) as the court felt that the convicted person in such cases should be kept under the disability of conviction. But these decisions are of no applicability to defamation cases which are non-cognisable, bailable and compoundable. Even the Representation of People Act, 1951, differentiates the gradients of criminality for incurring disqualification by classifying various categories of offences. The offence of defamation steps in only in cases of maximum sentence and, hence may deserve differential treatment.

What next?

The disqualified MP is reportedly approaching the Supreme Court challenging the order passed by the Gujarat High Court in the revision petition. When the High Court decides during a revisional stage a challenge against the appeal court order on an application during the pendency of the appeal, the Supreme Court usually does not interfere. But amalgamating the principles of law as declared by the Supreme Court in various cases, it is left to the top Court to grant indulgence to stay the conviction in this particular case on defamation and disqualification by employing its sweeping power to do substantive justice under Article 136. However, the final decision of the sessions court in the pending criminal appeal would hang like the sword of Damocles over the restored membership of Mr. Gandhi as an adverse decision puts him back to square one anytime afterwards.

The implication of this is long lasting as the conviction entails a six year disqualification from contesting the elections which will have grave ramifications.

Abhilash M.R is a lawyer practising in the Supreme Court

THE GIST

- The High Court was deciding on an application to suspend the order of conviction against Mr. Gandhi. The Court ultimately denied relief to the petitioner relying on the principle that a stay of conviction is not a rule but an exception to be resorted to in rare cases.
- The comment by Mr. Gandhi, "why all thieves have Modi surname" is found penal under Section 499 that makes defamatory an imputation concerning "a company or an association or collection of persons as such."
- It remains to be seen whether the apex court would view people bearing the surname Modi as an identifiable or definite class in order to be called a "group of persons".

INBRIEF

Centre, not State, has banned wearing of bangles: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has alleged that efforts are being made to spread a false news that the State government has banned the midday meal workers from wearing bangles. In a tweet, the Chief Minister said: "In reality, it is the Centre that has banned the workers from wearing bangles under its Poshan scheme."

Khader honoured with 'Great Son of India' award

Karnataka Speaker U.T. Khader was presented with the 'Great Son of India' award at the Indian Conference of Intellectuals in New Delhi on Sunday. Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhushan Harichandan and former Supreme Court Judge V. Gopala Gowda were present on the occasion.

Powerlifters from SWR win all-India championship

A team of powerlifters from South Western Railway emerged winners in the 19th All-India Railway Powerlifting Championship held at Kashipur recently. Sanjeev Kishore, General Manager, SWR, congratulated the members of the team in Hubballi on Saturday. He commended the team for their dedication, determination, and unparalleled skills that led them to emerge as champions.

BJP-JD(S) tie-up: Regional party looking at outcome of NDA meeting tomorrow

While the BJP has not yet appointed its Leader of Opposition in both the Houses of State legislature despite completion of two weeks of the Budget session, Bommai says the party will decide on the posts after the meeting; JD(S) sources say the party has not been invited to the NDA meet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid increasing speculation over a possible Janata Dal (Secular) and Bharatiya Janata Party alliance in Karnataka ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the regional party is believed to be looking at the outcome of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties meeting in Delhi on July 18 to make its move that is likely to settle the issue of appointment of the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly also.

While the BJP in an unprecedented move has not yet appointed its Leader of Opposition in both the Houses of State legislature despite completion of two weeks of the Budget session, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday indicated that the BJP could decide on the posts after the July 18 meeting.

He also told presspersons in Hubballi that the future political developments in the State were dependent on the success of talks between the leaders of both parties.

> A decision on alliance will be taken by the party high command. Our leaders have held talks with JD (S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda. Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has expressed his thoughts on the issue. Future developments will be dependent on the success of the talks.
>
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**
> Former Chief Minister

"A decision on alliance will be taken by the party high command. Our leaders have held talks with former Prime Minister and JD (S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda. Already (former Chief Minister) H.D. Kumaraswamy has expressed his thoughts on the issue. Future developments will be dependent on the success of the talks," he said.

BJP MLC N. Ravi Kumar told presspersons in Bengaluru that he had information that Mr. Kumaraswamy and Mr. Gowda would go to Delhi (to attend the meeting), and a decision on this would be taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda. "A decision will be taken keeping in mind the good of the country. We will support it," he said.

The delay in appointment of the Leader of Opposition by the BJP has been ridiculed by the Congress leaders over the last fortnight, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday taunted the BJP for waiting to appoint the Opposition leader. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Sunday questioned the ideology of the JD(S) for going for an alliance with BJP, and said that its secular tag is fake. "Instead, JD (S) should merge with BJP and claim the Leader of Opposition post officially. Congress has always been calling JD(S) the B-team of BJP," he tweeted.

Though the BJP leaders have spoken about the possibility of the alliance, the JD(S) has so far been careful in its approach. JD (S) sources said that the party has not been invited to the NDA meeting, but is looking for the meeting's outcome. Incidentally, the JD (S) has not been invited by the Congress-led Opposition parties meeting being held at Bengaluru on July 18 too.

In favour

A senior JD (S) leader said though a section of the party has been strongly advocating to have an alliance with the BJP, no decision has been taken yet.

"The speculation on Opposition leader is in the BJP. We have not been approached with any offer," the leader claimed, adding that the party will discuss any such moves or the offer.

Another source in the party said that the push for JD(S) to move towards BJP came strongly after it felt that Muslims had abandoned the party completely in favour of Congress despite strong appeal to the community to vote in the recently concluded Assembly elections in Karnataka. "The party lost many seats due to the consolidation of minority votes. Mr. Kumaraswamy had met community leaders before elections and had been assured of support. The party is deeply disappointed with the election results."

A top source in the party, however, indicated that the party is most likely to go with BJP for the Lok Sabha elections.

HDK likely to become LoP: Ayanur Manjunath

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Ayanur Manjunath, Janata Dal (S) leader and former MP, has said that former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy was likely to become the Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly after Tuesday, hinting at a possible political tie-up between the JD (S) and the BJP.

Speaking at a JD(S) party programme in Shivamogga on Sunday, Mr. Manjunath said, "Many changes are expected in politics after Tuesday. I may have to join those whom I left a few months ago. And, how to accept it is the challenge before me," he said.

Further, he said, "We were expecting that Mr. Kumaraswamy would become the Chief Minister if there was a fractured verdict. But that did not happen. The five guarantees that the Congress announced helped the party in coming to power. Congress too did not expect this. However, Mr. Kumaraswamy has been shining as real Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly though we have lesser number of MLAs," he said.

Mr. Manjunath, who was BJP MLC, joined the JD (S) ahead of the Assembly elections. He contested from the Shivamogga Assembly seat on JD(S) ticket and lost.

T.N.'s demand for water: Chief Minister, DKS to hold meeting soon, says Cheluvarayaswamy

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Irrigation Department officials will shortly hold a meeting to discuss the situation arising out of poor monsoon rains and the demand for release of water from Tamil Nadu, according to Mandya district incharge Minister Cheluvarayaswamy.

Fielding queries from reporters in Mandya on Saturday, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said the State was facing a shortfall of rains. While the State requires water for drinking purpose, Tamil Nadu had placed a demand for release of water at the recent Cauvery Water Monitoring Committee, he said.

Water scarcity

"There is drinking water scarcity here. We can't even release water to Tamil Nadu while farmers are also facing a problem with regard to their crops," he said before adding that a meeting will be held with the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the Irrigation Department portfolio, and the department officials in the next two or three days to discuss the matter and take an appropriate decision.

Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy, who recently prayed for rains, said he was optimistic of rains as the meteorological department report had predicted good rains by the end of July. "It is inevitable for us, but to be hopeful," he said.

He said the inflow into the KRS reservoir went up to 13,000 to 14,000 cusecs per day, taking the water level to 89 feet. But, the inflow had suddenly gone back to 2,500 cusecs per day during the last four days.

Claiming that there was a shortage of water, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy favoured a wait and watch approach.

Cloud seeding

To questions, he said the State government will think about declaring drought and resorting to cloud seeding only when all hopes for rains were lost.

A Cabinet sub-committee had already been formed to look into the situation arising out of poor rainfall and take suitable decisions, he added.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Blame it on the astrologer

Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Revanna (*in picture*) and former Minister R. Ashok of the Bharatiya Janata Party had an interesting exchange in

the Legislative Assembly on Friday. Mr. Revanna thanked the BJP leader for doing several works related to his constituency during his time as Minister and said he was facing difficulties in getting his work done in the present government. Intervening at this point, Mr. Ashok said in a lighter vein that the trouble was owing to change of personal astrologer by Mr. Revanna, which seemed to be a major reason for the defeat of the JD(S) in the Assembly elections. Mr. Revanna, a great believer in astrology, had to occupy a seat in the Opposition benches because he had changed the astrologer, Mr. Ashok said, adding that he may well have secured PWD and Energy portfolios by this time if he had not done so. If the JD (S) had secured another 20 seats, the whole sitting arrangements in the Assembly could have changed, Mr. Ashok remarked. The conversation brought smiles on the faces of members who were earlier involved in a serious debate on the Karnataka GST Bill.

In praise of CM

Some MLAs seem to be speaking in the Legislative Assembly to please Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. K.M. Shivalinge Gowda (*in picture*), who won the 2023 election on Congress ticket by quitting JD(S), came to the Assembly more than an hour late on Thursday. Noting the presence of Mr. Siddaramaiah in the House, he immediately requested Speaker U.T. Khader to give him an opportunity to speak on the Governor's address. Mr. Khader said, "Many members came early and they too have equal

rights." When his turn came, in his hour-long speech with many disruptions by BJP members, Mr. Gowda praised Mr. Siddaramaiah for implementing five guarantees. Instead of speaking on the Governor's address, he spent much time criticising the Centre, which drew sharp reactions from BJP members.

What voters want

MLAs claim that they are increasingly becoming "grievance redressal persons" rather than lawmakers after elections. JD (S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy (*in picture*) said voters come to him asking for funds for

constructions of temples costing more than ₹ 1 crore, community halls, and for personal works. After spending crores of rupees in elections, how can an MLA donate lakhs of rupees to fulfil voters' demands too, he asked. According to Mr. Kumaraswamy, keeping close contact with the voters of the constituency was not a guarantee of victory in elections. Instead, he claimed touring the constituency a few days ahead of elections and by giving "gifts" would ensure victory.

Speaker U.T. Khader, B.R. Patil (Congress) and Araga Jnanedra (BJP) revealed their experiences of winning elections and said many businessmen enter politics to get their work done more easily instead of depending on MLAs for all clearances.

Nagesh Prabhu

Man arrested for derogatory post on Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Mysuru district police arrested a man for his alleged derogatory remarks against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a social media post.

The accused had not only levelled allegations against Mr. Siddaramaiah, but also passed remarks with communal overtones.

Activist murder

The derogatory post had been made in the wake of the recent murder of Yuva Brigade activist Venugopal Nayak in T. Narsipur.

The accused, who is also a native of T. Narsipur, had even called for a bundh in his post.

Ravikumar, a resident of Mellahalli in Mysuru district's Varuna hobli, had lodged a complaint with the Cybercrime police. The Cybercrime police forwarded the case to T. Narsipur police station.

Released on bail

"The police registered an FIR and arrested the accused," said an officer, adding that he had been released on bail.

Recognition

Playback singers L.R. Eshwari (left) and P. Susheela being felicitated by actors Bharati Vishnuvardhan and B. Saroja Devi at a function organised by Chi. Udayashankar Pratishtana and Sangeeta Ratna Vidyalaya at the Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru on Sunday.
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Matru Poorna, Matru Vandana schemes to continue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Women and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Saturday dismissed reports that two women welfare schemes - Matru Poorna and Matru Vandana - will be dropped as there is no mention of the schemes in the recent Budget.

"These two schemes are meant to meet the nutritional needs of women. There is no question of dropping them. We will further implement these schemes more effectively," she told reporters.

Mathru Poorna is meant to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a Centrally sponsored DBT scheme with the cash incentive of ₹ 5,000 for pregnant women and lactating mothers.

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विभिन्न क्षतिग्रस्त सड़कों के सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं डामरीकरण के 03 कार्य हेतु इच्छुक संवेदकों से ऑनलाईन माध्यम से दिनांक 20.07.2023 सायं 06.00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का अन्य विवरण वेबसाईट (http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in और http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है। उपापन की कुल अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 1036.00 लाख है।
UBN: PWD2324WSOB07510, PWD2324WSOB07512 & PWD2324WSOB07513
(उदय सिंह जारवाल),
डीआईपीआर/सी/10070/2023 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत, बांसवाड़ा

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Date of Death : 17-07-2022
N.S. VENKATESAN
Retd. Dental Mechanic
Al-Quwayyiah Hospital Saudi Arabia
Fondly Remembered by
Friends and Family.

CACHE

ISTOCKPHOTO

How gaps in cloud system configuration could expose sensitive user data

What are some of the recent examples of data breaches in cloud environments? How do system misconfigurations happen? What is the most effective approach to secure sensitive information in the cloud?

Nabeel Ahmed

The story so far:

According to a 2023 survey by Thales Cloud Security, which included responses from nearly 3,000 IT and security professionals across 18 countries, 35% of organisations in India note that their data was breached in a cloud environment last year. Moreover, 68% of businesses in India, and 75% globally, say that more than 40% of data stored in the cloud is classified as sensitive.

Have there been breaches?

In June, a bot on the messaging platform Telegram allegedly returned the personal data of Indian citizens who registered with the CoWIN portal. The country's Health Ministry denied reports of any data leak and said that the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) was reviewing the existing security infrastructure of the portal.

Earlier, in January, reports emerged that HR management portal myrocket.co allegedly exposed personal information of employees and job candidates. Later, in separate breaches, in April and May, the ICICI Bank's and university admission platform Leverage EDU's data were also allegedly leaked.

While these breaches were fixed after the organisations and authorities were notified, even momentary exposure of personal user data can have far-reaching consequences. In particular, personally identifiable information can be used by threat actors to target individuals' financial assets and online accounts.

What is cloud storage and why do companies use it?

Cloud storage is a method through which digital data, including files, business data, videos, or images, are stored on servers in off-site locations. These servers may be maintained by the companies themselves or by third-party providers responsible for hosting, managing, and securing stored data. These servers can be accessed either by the public or through private internet connections, depending on the nature of the data. Companies use cloud storage to store, access and maintain data so that they do not need to invest in operating and maintaining data centres. An added advantage of cloud storage is its scalability – organisations can expand or reduce their data footprint depending on its needs.

Most cloud providers offer security features like physical security at data centres, in addition to zero-trust architecture, identity and access management, and encryption to ensure the security of data on their servers.

What are the risks associated with cloud storage?

The risks arise from the deployment of incompatible legacy IT systems and third-party data storage architecture. Additionally, the use of weak authentication practices and easily guessable passwords can allow unauthorised individuals to access sensitive data. Data stored in the cloud also faces the risk of exposure due to insecure APIs, poorly designed or inadequate security controls, internal threats due to human error and inadequate encryption during transfer or storage, Jaydeep Singh, General Manager for India, Kaspersky told *The Hindu*.

How do legacy systems weaken cloud storage setup?

Though cloud security may appear similar to legacy IT security, the difference in their architecture necessitates different strategies, Mr. Singh explained.

Due to the lack of support or upgrades, legacy IT security may have known vulnerabilities that are yet to be fixed. Such vulnerabilities make them an appealing target for hackers who may use the gaps to gain unauthorised access to cloud resources connected with these legacy systems. Additionally, legacy systems may not be capable of supporting more advanced encryption techniques such as secure boot methods or hardware-based encryption, which increases the risks to cloud infrastructure. Therefore, updating and auditing legacy systems when used in tandem with cloud infrastructure is important.

Should data breaches be treated on par with data exposures?

Data breaches and data exposure incidents in the cloud should be treated identically. While in a data breach, confidential or protected information is exposed to unauthorised individuals, data exposure is often depicted as the unintentional disclosure or accidental disclosure of data, resulting from misconfiguration or human error. "Both data breaches and data exposure incidents require close monitoring to ensure the confidentiality and availability of sensitive information housed in the cloud, " Mr. Singh said.

What are system misconfigurations?

Cloud storage involves multiple systems, servers, and software working in tandem. The overall system is designed to ensure individuals within a company can access data stored on the cloud as and when required.

A system misconfiguration arises when there is a lack of thorough security configurations on the devices accessing the cloud data and the servers, or a weakness in the software used. Misconfigurations can expose user data, making it accessible to unauthorised individuals, and compromising security. "Many times, companies using cloud storage leave security configuration to the cloud vendor, but the cloud vendor is just a vendor and the plans companies opt for may not include access encryption or firewall rules on the cloud. These settings, though important, may be missed, leading to threat actors making use of the misconfigurations in the cloud to access stored data," said Sanjay Katkar, CTO and joint MD, Quick Heal Technologies.

Who is liable for data protection in the cloud?

The onus of ensuring data security lies with the companies even though they grant access to data to vendors and partners. If the data is sensitive in nature, it is the company's responsibility to make sure that a selected vendor has all the right checks in place and has conducted due diligence. This includes checking cloud compliances like ensuring passwords have two-factor authentication, monitoring access to the database, ensuring it is encrypted, and ensuring all firewall rules are set so that only access through certain places and certain departments is allowed.

Data encryption is seen as one of the most effective approaches for securing sensitive information in the cloud. However, it comes with its own set of challenges which include encryption before data is stored, ensuring the security of encryption keys, and changing the encryption keys periodically to ensure continued safety.

What are the risks of data migration in the cloud?

There is risk involved when switching between vendors for cloud storage or when systems are upgraded, Mr. Katkar said. Without a proper migration plan and process based on thorough assessment of the cloud provider, data could get exposed.

Additionally, ensuring that data is encrypted whenever in transit, and making relevant backups are also key aspects of ensuring data security, he added.

How can users keep their data safe?

When users get to know of possible data breaches, they are recommended to change passwords and the two-factor authentication setup, push security question answers, and monitor accounts for unauthorised transactions and SMSs for suspicious activity. The lifespan of financial data exposed in a breach is short. It is used by threat actors within weeks. However, for personally identifiable data, the lifespan can be longer, with data sold on the dark web to target users for phishing scams and other illicit activities.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the women's champions at The Championships in Wimbledon

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Though the tournament began in 1877, when did the ladies' singles start at The Championships?

QUESTION 2
Winning a singles title once is a big achievement. Who holds the record for the most number of women's singles crowns with nine?

QUESTION 3
The champion is awarded a salver dubbed the 'Venus Rosewater Dish'. Who is the seated figure in the centre set to represent?

QUESTION 4
With which legend does Martina Navratilova hold the record for the most championships (singles, doubles & mixed doubles) with 20 titles?

QUESTION 5
Who was the last unseeded player before Marketa Vondrousova to claim the women's singles crown?

QUESTION 6
Which legend, apart from winning five singles titles at Wimbledon, also won the British Ladies Amateur Golf Championship and an archery silver medal at the 1908 Summer Olympics?

Visual question:
This is one of the most poignant pictures from Wimbledon. Name the player being consoled by the Duchess of Kent in 1993 who later went on to win the title in 1998. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the July 14 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This novel of Milan Kundera examines the feelings associated with returning home after being away for long. **Ans: *Ignorance***
2. In 2019, the Czech Republic made this "symbolic gesture" to Kundera. **Ans: They restored his citizenship**
3. In 1972, this writer championed a series to bring together excellent works of fiction by writers from Eastern Europe. **Ans: Philip Roth**
4. This book of Kundera's was adapted for film. **Ans: *The Unbearable Lightness of Being***
5. Kundera called this book a "novel in the form of variations". **Ans: *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting***
Visual: This event sought to crush the period of reforms seeking "socialism with a human face." **Ans: Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia**
Early Birds: Gopi. B| Parveen Rewri| Utkarsha Verma| Indra Sharma| Jahnavi Taak

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

You should do it, the world is your oyster!

I am really glad that I adopted my cat. He is my ray of sunshine whenever I am having a bad day

S. Upendran

"I thought you were going to be busy with your cousin till the weekend."

"Lalitha left! Her friend's father had a heart attack. He's in hospital."

"But what can Lalitha do? After all, ..."

"The friend requested her to come. She wanted Lalitha to be with her."

"I can understand, I guess. At times like this, you want someone cheerful to be with you. Someone who is positive, and can keep your spirits up. And Lalitha, as everyone knows, can be all that. She's a ray of sunshine."

"Ray of sunshine? Does it mean a person who is cheerful most of the time?"

"That's right! When you refer to someone as your ray of sunshine, what you're suggesting is that she makes everybody around her happy especially, in a difficult situation. My grandparents used to call me their little ray of sunshine."

"That must have been a long time ago – probably, when you were a baby! They wouldn't call you that now. You're anything but a ray of sunshine."

"It's difficult to be a ray of sunshine with people like you. Here's another example. Whenever I feel miserable, I pick up a novel by Wodehouse. It's like a ray of sunshine."

"I don't think books have ever made me happy! Tell me, now that Lalitha has graduated, what does she plan to do?"

"She has a degree from Harvard. As far as she's concerned, the world is her oyster."

"Never heard that expression before. What does it mean?"

"It means she can do whatever she wants to. There'll be plenty of opportunities coming her way."

"And if she chooses carefully, she'll achieve great success."

"The idiom is mostly used with young people. Especially with those who are just beginning their career."

"So, the expression 'the world is your oyster' is a form of encouragement. It's like telling someone to go conquer the world!"

"That's right! The person has the world at his feet. It's there for the taking."

"When Becker won his first Wimbledon title as a teenager, the world became his oyster."

"That's a good example. You've won ten crore in the lottery. You should consider travelling. The world is your oyster."

"Isn't an oyster a creature that lives in the sea?"

"That's right! It lives in a shell. The shell is very hard to open. Some of the oyster shells have a pearl inside them."

"I see. In other words, what the idiom is implying is that you should open every oyster shell that you see, because one of them may contain a pearl."

"I guess you could say that!"

"And if you do find a pearl, it'll be easier for you to be a ray of sunshine."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Punctilious:
marked by precise accordance with details

Synonym: meticulous

Usage: *He is punctilious in his attention to rules of etiquette.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/punctiliouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pʌŋkˈtɪli.əs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Car runs over four women waiting at bus stop on ECR

The police said the car was being driven in a rash manner by a 22-year-old; two other women, who were also knocked down by the car at Kilputhupattu, sustained serious injuries

The Hindu Bureau
VILLUPURAM

Four women were run over by a car while they were waiting at a bus stop at Kilputhupattu near Kottakuppam on the East Coast Road in the early hours of Sunday.

Two other women, who were also knocked down by the car, sustained serious injuries.

The deceased were identified as Lakshmi, 48; Govindammal, 46; Gengammal, 45; and Nayagam, 48 – all fish vendors and residents of Pudukuppam. The incident occurred around 4.30 a.m.

The police said Lakshmi, Govindammal, Gengammal, Nayagam, Prema and Hemala were waiting at a bus stop when the car, driven in a rash manner by G. Vigneshwaran, 22, from Chennai to Puducherry ran over them.

The car which was involved in the accident at Kilputhupattu near Kottakuppam on the ECR in Villupuram district.

Lakshmi, Govindammal, and Gengammal died on the spot. Prema and Hemala were admitted to the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (Jipmer). Nayagam died of injuries at Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences.

The police said Vigneshwaran, of Kakkan Colony in Nungambakkam, was also injured. Four others who were travelling in the car sustained minor injuries. Further investigation is on.

Police serve summons on four YouTubers for erroneous videos on DIG's death

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Efforts were on to trace the IP address of the creators of three more videos, said a senior police officer

The police have served summons on four YouTubers who uploaded videos that spread erroneous information on the recent death by suicide of Coimbatore Range Deputy Inspector General C. Vijayakumar.

A senior officer said the police in Coimbatore's Ramanathapuram station served summons on four YouTubers and efforts were on to trace the IP address of the creators of three more videos.

Summons will be served on the three video creators after tracking their identity.

Speculative information

The official said the seven YouTubers created videos that spread erroneous and speculative information on the reason for the death by suicide of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG).

The four YouTubers, who received the summons, have been asked to report before the investigating officer from Wednesday.

The police will ask them for evidence, based on which they created the videos.

S. Karikal Pari Sankar, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Podanur range), has been tasked to investigate the matter.

Vijayakumar, 47, had died by suicide at his camp office at Red Fields in Coimbatore on July 7 morning.

Under treatment

Following the incident, A. Arun, Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order), had told journalists that Vijayakumar was under treatment for depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) for some years and this could be the possible reason for the suicide.

He had also stated that Vijayakumar did not have family issues or workload pressure.

False news

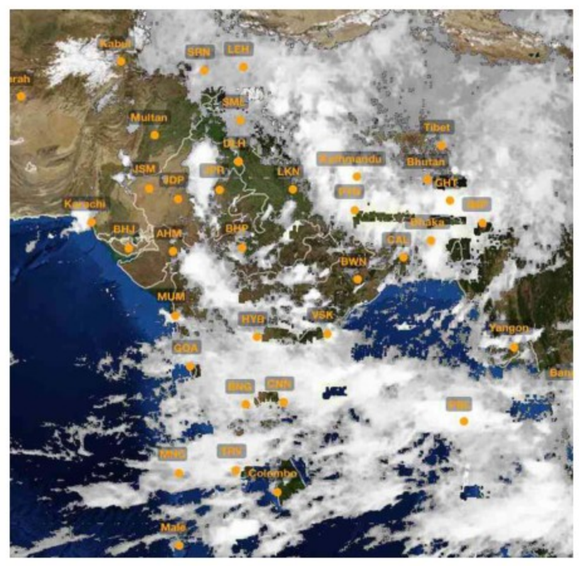
However, some YouTubers spread false news that the DIG took the extreme step for reasons other than depression, including issues in the family.

Summons will be served on the creators of videos that spread such false information, the police said.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, TeleMANAS 14416 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rain fall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur, Gujarat, Telangana and Coastal Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	34.0	25.8	Kozhikode	0.6	31.3	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	34.2	27.0	Kurnool	17	34.5	24.7
Aizawl	1	34.3	21.5	Lucknow	0.4	32.9	26.6
Allahabad	—	34.4	27.5	Madurai	—	38.0	26.3
Bengaluru	2	29.1	21.4	Mangaluru	35.2	28.4	24.1
Bhopal	13.4	—	22.4	Mumbai	4	31.7	26.4
Bhubaneswar	47	27.2	24.5	Mysuru	—	31.0	21.7
Chandigarh	0.2	35.1	27.2	New Delhi	2	35.6	24.9
Chennai	—	37.2	29.2	Patna	38.6	34.9	26.4
Coimbatore	—	33.6	23.5	Port Blair	4	30.9	26.1
Dehradun	5	32.5	24.6	Puducherry	0.2	35.8	27.8
Gangtok	13	20.5	18.8	Pune	—	29.6	23.8
Goa	6	29.8	25.0	Raipur	29	33.0	23.8
Guwahati	1	34.5	25.6	Ranchi	47	29.3	23.2
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	—	24.0	19.0
Hyderabad	2	30.4	23.4	Shimla	25	22.6	17.0
Imphal	33	31.8	21.4	Srinagar	—	24.3	21.6
Jaipur	—	34.5	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.7	25.1
Kochi	2	30.0	25.2	Tiruchi	—	36.7	28.0
Kohima	103	24.6	18.3	Vijayawada	1	33.6	26.0
Kolkata	20	32.6	26.6	Visakhapatnam	13	32.5	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	7	123	63	63	
Bengaluru	8	25	.70	27	97	
Chennai	3	116	.71	70	65	
Delhi	—	7	112	34	45	
Hyderabad	—	.44	.64	49	83	
Kolkata	.17	.13	.18	14	34	
Lucknow	.15	.16	.10	58	51	
Mumbai	—	9	—	500	500	
Pune	132	222	110	45	40	
Visakhapatnam	—	.57	.36	46	73	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Siddharth Nagar, Mumbai recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 500 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rabindra Bharati University, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 44

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Rail plan: Kerala BJP chief changes stance

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In what is perceived as a rowback from BJP State president K. Surendran's earlier position that the party would give unqualified support to Kerala's bid to build a mass rapid transport system if it approves metro expert and BJP leader E. Sreedharan's alternative proposal to SilverLine, he said that the party will discuss the proposal in detail and take a final call on it. At a press conference on Sunday, he said that the BJP's position is that Kerala needs a fast train.

On Saturday, Union Minister of State V. Muraleedharan and BJP national executive member Sobha Surendran seemed to suggest that the party's State president had jumped the gun by appearing to imply that the party would not hold up Kerala's development if the State government accepts Mr. Sreedharan's high-speed alternative to the LDF's semi-high-speed SilverLine.

Mr. Surendran said the State government had taken a U-turn regarding SilverLine and should apologise to the people for spending ₹50 crore to prepare a detailed project report for SilverLine.

Waves of woe

Withering dreams: A resident looks at his damaged house and uprooted coconut trees following another instance of coastal erosion at Vettukad village in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. S. MAHINSHA

A.P. officials gear up to tackle flood threat as inflows into Godavari rise

The Hindu Bureau
DOWLESWARAM

The Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA-Chintoor) authorities are preparing an action plan for evacuation and a mitigation plan in the wake of huge inflows into the Godavari at the Polavaram irrigation project in Eluru district in Andhra Pradesh.

On Sunday, over 1.35 lakh cusecs of inflow was recorded at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram, from where above 1.27 lakh cusecs of floodwater is being released into the sea, according to a bulletin released by the State Irrigation Department.

Nearly 10,000 cusecs of floodwater is being released into the central, eastern and western Godavari deltas.

Up to the brim: A view of the Polavaram irrigation project across the Godavari in Eluru district as inflows pour in from various sources. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The entire inflow is coming from Godavari, Sabari and Sileru rivers, which merge between Chintoor and Kunavaram in ASR district.

In a review meeting held on Saturday, ASR District Joint Collector and In-Charge Project Officer (ITDA-Chintoor) Siva Srinivas has directed officials to arrange essential commodities and boats for supply and rescue operations.

Soon, Araku coffee will be a 'Made in Andhra Pradesh' product as GCC sets up its own plant

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

The processing of Araku Valley coffee will soon be carried out in Andhra Pradesh, and the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) can claim it's a 'Made in A.P.' product once its plans materialise.

The GCC currently depends on an outsourcing agency in Bengaluru for processing the coffee.

The GCC has finalised plans to set up coffee processing unit (CPU) on 1.5 acres of land it owns at Dounuru village of Paderu mandal in Alluri Sitharama Raju district at a cost of ₹5 crore.

Art of brewing: Tribal farmers plucking coffee seeds at a village in Araku in Andhra Pradesh. K.R. DEEPAK

The GCC proposes to commence construction of the CPU in the auspicious month of *Nija Shravanam* (beginning August 18), and complete the work in five to six months so as to begin operations at the unit from the 2024-25 financial year.

"Coffee processing entails various costs – outsourcing, loading, unloading and transportation – due to the tie-up with the outsourcing agency. This year, the government has decided to process the coffee locally and sanctioned ₹5 crore to establish the CPU," GCC Chairperson Shobha Swathi Rani told *The Hindu*.

"The decision will not only help save money but also help the tribal farmers in the form of enhancement of procurement charges and other incentives," she adds.

"At present, the GCC is giving ₹285 per kg for coffee beans to the farmers. We have received the Organic Certification for the top-grade coffee being cultivated by 2,600 tribal farmers at 82 villages of Chintapalli and G.K. Veedhi mandals. We will export the coffee under the 'GCC Araku Valley Coffee' brand after the first product rolls out of the CPU before the General Elections in 2024," Ms. Swathi Rani told *The Hindu*.

The Paderu agency has coffee plantations in 11 mandals in an area of 2,27,021 acres, and 93,521 tribal people are involved in coffee cultivation, including 2,600 farmers who cultivate the top grade of beans.

The GCC started collecting coffee beans from tribal farmers in 2015-16, and pays competitive rates. "GCC pooled up 996.18 metric tonnes of seeds worth ₹20.07 crore in the year," Ms. Swathi Rani said.

Commonly found cicada species sheds foreign tag to embrace Indian identity

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 'foreign' cicada that is commonly found in several parts of South India has assumed an Indian identity.

The insect species that has now been christened *Purana cheeveeda* (after its Malayalam name *Cheeveedu*) used to be mistaken for *Purana tigrina*, a species that was first described in Malaysia in 1850. In view of the differences in their morphological characteristics, the Association for Advancement in Entomology has corrected the long-standing error in taxonomic identification and has excluded the Malaysian species from the South Indian cicada fauna.

Purana cheeveeda

The 'discovery' that involved correcting the mistaken identity was undertaken by a research team led by Travancore Nature History Society research associate Kalesh Sadasivan and including independent researchers Jebine Jose, Bernad M. Thampan, P.V. Muralimohan, Baiju Kochunarayanan, Anzil Shereef and Mick Webb of the National History Museum in the U.K.

The researchers in Kerala chanced upon the 'discovery' after observing differences in the structure of the male genitalia and operculum.

Once a common sight in homesteads, their gradual disappearance could be an indicator of the deteriorating quality of soil and vegetation, they cautioned.

Something special

India's relationship with France is unique and multidimensional

Celebrating 25 years of the India-France strategic partnership was at the top of the agenda during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to France and his meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron last week, which ended with a number of agreements and a slew of defence deals. Mr. Modi's visit, just months before Mr. Macron is in Delhi for the G-20 summit, was a special one, as he was invited to be the chief guest at the Bastille Day parade – it saw Indian tri-service participation – and was the second time that an Indian Prime Minister has been extended the invitation (Manmohan Singh was the first in 2009). Chief among the agreements was the strategic road map for the next 25 years – "Horizon 2047" – which includes cooperation in defence, space, nuclear energy, climate change and green transitions as well as education and people-to-people ties. Another road map was released on how to cooperate further in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes military and naval exchanges and a trilateral development fund to help countries in the region. There were also the decisions, in principle, to buy 26 more Rafale fighter jets off-the-shelf (Rafale-M), this time for the Indian Navy; three more Scorpene submarines in continuation to the purchases of 2008, and an agreement between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safran for helicopter engines.

In the broader picture, the France-India strategic relationship is built on a respect for each other's strategic autonomy. France has remained steadfast in its refusal to comment on India's internal affairs or its foreign policy choices. While France has taken a leading role in the western pushback to Russia's war in Ukraine, it has not joined other western countries in publicly exhorting India to change its stand. In 1974, and in 1998, France did not join the western push to sanction India for its nuclear tests either; it even stepped in with uranium supplies to power the Tarapur reactors. Mr. Modi's visit was also at around the same time that the European Parliament decided to adopt a resolution criticising his government for the violence in Manipur and alleged violations of human rights and freedom of religion issues. Yet, none of these issues was discussed or brought up. India too, made no mention of the violence in France after the killing of a teenager belonging to the Algerian immigrant community. Further, neither country has any desire to pull the other into a coalition, grouping or alliance the other is a part of, and both seem content with the success in forging the relationship bilaterally. In this and many other ways, their relationship has proven itself to be different from the other major partnerships that India has built across the world, explaining both the symbolism and the substance of the Prime Minister's visit.

Flood feud

States must coordinate to evolve a joint strategy to combat floods

The devastating floods across North India have renewed attention on the dynamic between climate change, urbanisation and the infrastructural lacunae that bedevil India's large cities. India is now right in the middle of the monsoon and it is only to be expected, given the topography of the hill States, that extended rains will cause landslips, landslides and pose extreme threats to life and property. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are among the States that have reported record rainfall and at least 60 deaths have been confirmed though the actual toll may be higher. However, it is the inundation of Delhi, a city that is not usually associated with rains, that has brought to national focus the disasters that lie in store.

In the terminology of the India Meteorological Department, Delhi received 'excess' and 'large excess' rain on five out of eight days, from July 3-10. On July 9, it recorded 221.4 mm of rain, more than the 209.7 mm that is the average for all of July. While this contributed to the flooding, rainfall in the last few days has dramatically reduced. And yet, large parts of the city which include iconic landmarks such as the Red Fort and the Supreme Court, continue to be flooded. Delhi's officials have attributed this to the flooding of the Yamuna in upstream States, particularly at Yamunanagar in Haryana, with the barrages in Delhi unable to effectively regulate and redirect the river's flow. This however elides the role of Delhi's infrastructural development that through the years has given short shrift to restricting construction on the Yamuna's floodplains, failed to prioritise the desilting of drains ahead of the monsoon, and scrimped on steps to avoid the large-scale concretisation of the city. Though there is the case that even upstream of Delhi, riverbed mining has meant that huge amounts of silt from Haryana block the natural flow of the river, blame games and pointing to "record rains" are unhelpful. The increased probability of spells of extreme rain, given warming trends in the Arctic as well as the Arabian Sea, means that there will be several more instances of flooding in the future. While urban flooding is far more frequent in Bengaluru, Chennai and Mumbai, Delhi should no longer consider itself immune given that its population and infrastructural needs are only going to expand. Much like the National Capital Territory evolved a joint management strategy to tackle air pollution, on realising that clean air is interdependent on action by all cities, these States must set aside their differences and evolve a joint strategy on countering future floods.

India's conglomerates are getting too big for comfort

C.P. Chandrasekhar

is Senior Research Fellow, Political Economy Research Institute, UMass Amherst

Nothing, not even Hindenburg Research, seems to stop the advance of Indian big business. The Adani Group continues with its acquisitions, even if at a slower pace, and has been able to persuade financial markets to lend it more money, notwithstanding assessments that it is over-dependent on debt. Reliance Industries Limited has announced the demerger of its financial services arm to establish a new entity, which media speculation sees as a bid by the group to establish a dominant presence in the financial services industry. The demerger is being seen as a repeat of the strategy adopted by the group in areas stretching from telecommunications and the retail trade to the media and entertainment businesses. Other business groups such as the Tatas and the Aditya Birla empire seem to also be performing well. The biggest of India's big businesses seem to be thriving.

But this assessment is not true of all of business in India. It is not just that small- and medium-scale firms, not to mention the large mass of informal enterprises, are not doing well and are yet to recover their COVID-19-inflicted losses. Many established big business names do not share the good fortune of the big few. A former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor and his co-author report in a much-cited paper that the share of assets in the non-financial sectors owned by the Big-5 business groups has risen from 10% in 1991 to nearly 18% in 2021, whereas the share of the next five has fallen from 18% to less than 9%. While their claim that increased concentration is contributing to inflation has been challenged, the evidence they provide of significantly increased concentration has not.

Progression to state capture

The dangers of such a rapid rise in industrial concentration have been flagged in the past across the world. The process feeds on itself by using market power to stifle competition. It results in profit inflation or profiteering, through the manipulation of costs and prices. In the process it fosters extreme asset and income inequality. It triggers efforts to influence institutions of democracy and, through means such as the capture of the media, it dilutes the role that civil society can play as a countervailing power. In time, it leads to undue corporate influence over political processes and the formulation of policy, with tendencies bordering on state capture.

> In the name of strengthening Indian business as part of promoting the national interest, a very few business groups are being actively favoured by the state

These fears were strengthened by the recognition that these tendencies are not stalled by competition in the 'market', but are a consequence of the functioning of markets. Given asset and income inequality, and therefore differential power among economic agents, the functioning of the 'market' favours, for multiple reasons, those who are asset-rich, leading to concentration and centralisation. That recognition led to the argument that it is not only necessary to regulate markets to address the malicious outcomes their functioning can give rise to, but that there is a need to physically prevent the growth of dominant businesses and excessively large conglomerates or even break up those that are seen as too big for comfort.

A promotion of big business

The difficulty is that while civil society voices can make a case for such action, in the final analysis it is the state that must implement the needed policies. And the nature of the state is not independent of the influence that the structures in society exert.

Democracies have battled hard to force governments to maintain some distance from private capital in general and big business in particular. Those efforts have been partially successful in specific historical contexts, leading among other things to strong action against monopoly and trustification. Similar efforts were seen in India immediately after Independence, as a national state emerged from a freedom movement that was a broad alliance of diverse classes. But, over the years the distance between state and private capital has narrowed hugely, leading to the current situation in which the state promotes big business rather than regulate or curb the latter. Within that framework the decisions as to how many and which business groups to promote, and to what extent, is arbitrary.

Three trends have signalled this narrowing of political distance between the state and big business. First, the embrace of neoliberalism by powerful voices within and outside the state. This implied adoption of the view that the role of the state is not to regulate private capital, but to facilitate its growth as means to all round economic progress. In fact, advocates of neoliberalism have argued that the competition that would be fostered by a liberalised regime will counter concentration. The reverse has happened, despite early signs in some sectors that competition had increased. Even in areas such as telecommunications and civil aviation, the initial increase in the number of new players only triggered a process of churning, with associated social waste, that has finally left a few, with signs of collusion among them. The consumer will be the loser.

The second is the propagation of the view that the state must help strengthen domestic big business to not just hold its own against giant global competitors, but to step beyond Indian shores. State policy, diplomacy and public resources, including those channelled through public banks had to serve as instruments for the purpose. While liberalisation opened up Indian markets, and subjected much of Indian business to global competition, state intervention was modified to protect and promote sections of big business, not least through large-scale subsidies and transfers.

The money factor

Third is the refusal to reduce the influence of money in politics. In the event, closeness of political parties (and therefore the governments they may lead) to big business has turned out to be a prerequisite for garnering the resources needed to "manage" elections and win electoral support. Over time, policy has been changed to legitimise corporate donations to political parties, including through the infamous electoral bonds scheme.

What is frightening in the current situation is that these tendencies have coalesced into a strategy where in the name of strengthening Indian business as part of promoting the national interest, a very few business groups have been actively favoured by the state. Under normal circumstances, this should have led to widespread resentment and dissent. Not just among those in the lower segments of the asset and income pyramid, but among more powerful sections closer to the top who are being ignored. That would spell instability and also perhaps serve as corrective. But that has not happened in the new India, because again in the name of national interest, state power is being used to suppress any such dissent. The result is an almost relentless march to extreme concentration of wealth and economic power.

The Ukraine counter-offensive, a reality check

Krishnan Srinivasan

is a former Foreign Secretary

After months of speculation as to when and where the Ukrainian counter-offensive against Russia would begin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy finally stated on June 10 that the offensive had begun. It must be assumed that the lack of fanfare attending this event was because the assault until then had not proved as successful as anticipated. While United States National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan is no doubt correct that 'this is a story that continues to be written day by day', Ukrainian losses are presumed heavy in men and material as Kiev probed for weakness in the Russian defence lines stretching 1,000 kilometres in the east and south east of Ukraine. Both sides acknowledge that fighting was intense, especially as Ukraine's initial efforts were to drive through Russian positions to reach the Sea of Azov and deprive Russia of its land access to Crimea. It can be assumed that this strategy had been anticipated by the Russian side.

How Ukraine and Russia stack up

Ukraine has assembled large quantities of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-supplied weaponry and a great number of its troops for the offensive, and much of these are already committed in battle. Losses on both sides are confirmed in both capitals. After six weeks of fighting it appears that the bravado in the western media about the counter-offensive has diminished to a point where it is rarely discussed.

Kiev evidently does not have the air supremacy against Russian defences that can facilitate advances on the ground, and the revolt against Russian military commanders by the para-military mercenary Wagner Group under the renegade, Yevgeny Prigozhin, which was a huge embarrassment for the Kremlin, has not delivered the advantage anticipated by Ukraine on the front lines.

> Washington's willingness to bypass ethics in its backing of Ukraine is a reflection of how badly Kiev's counter-offensive is faring

The second major Ukrainian thrust seems to be in the Bakhmut region to negate the Russian gains of earlier months. This enterprise seems to be meeting some success, though it is slow and localised. The Ukrainian recapture last year of Kharkiv and Kherson along with significant territory might be harder to replicate now, since in those sectors the Russians chose to withdraw in the face of Ukrainian attacks, but they are now dug in with heavily mined forward positions and holding their ground. The Russian army is stronger in numbers than previously, has prepared defence in depth, strengthened its supply routes and seems better prepared to deal with the counter attacks. Russian equipment, derided by the West as antiquated, has been put to effective use.

The Russians seem to have adapted to the changed nature of the war and the population seems ready for a protracted engagement since NATO, with its backing of Ukraine 'for as long as it takes', appears to envisage a total Russian defeat and evacuation of all Ukrainian territory. The Russians have certainly suffered losses of manpower, and elections which were due to be held in Russian-occupied Ukraine have been postponed to next year, but Ukraine also does not have unlimited human resources and its losses will be hard to replace.

The huge leak of Pentagon files last April revealed the presence of American, British and other NATO fighters in Ukraine but the numbers are still small. While President Zelenskyy continues insatiably to appeal for weapons from anyone who cares to listen, doubts arise as to whether the additional resources that NATO is able to prove will prove decisive.

A truce seems distant

Prospects for a negotiated end to the war are receding until after the American presidential election next year, since United States President Joe Biden, like most European leaders, has invested massive political capital in a Russian defeat. But there is a greater likelihood of escalation. Because the Kiev counter-offensive is stalling, Ukraine's forces are running short of ammunition and NATO cannot provide it in the quantity needed, Washington has announced, against strong objections of human rights advocates and the United Nations Secretary-General, that it will supply Ukraine with controversial cluster munitions, which are tiny bomblets from a rocket, missile or artillery shell that scatters them in mid-flight. They explode over a wide area on impact but a significant proportion do not, and explode only on being handled or trodden upon.

More than 120 countries, including most NATO members, have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions that outlaws these weapons due to the threat caused to non-combatants. The U.S. has not signed the treaty; nor have Russia and Ukraine which have both used cluster munitions in the war.

In Ukraine, where 9,000 civilians are estimated killed and over six million made refugees, the question of additional threats to civilian life may seem moot, but the U.S. would not wish to be judged by the same ethical yardstick as Ukraine and Russia. That Washington is willing to take that risk is a reflection of how badly the Ukrainian counter-offensive is faring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rupee use in the UAE

The agreement between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to help increase the circulation of the rupee in the Gulf countries, will, if swiftly and promptly executed, mitigate the ordeals of the larger Indian diaspora in the UAE. As it stands, the use and the contribution of the rupee in global trade is meagre.

India must now ensure that irritants in relations with the UAE are ironed out and there is a strong bilateral relationship.

The episode where hate speech and unwarranted comments in India almost caused a diplomatic crisis with the Gulf states must not recur.

M. Rishidev,
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

The multidimensional global crisis brought on by the Russia-Ukraine war and the sanctions on Russia have taught important lessons for the international community. Bilateral trade in local currencies could prove to be a critical element in the new emerging international order, where nations are less and less dependent on any single currency and have the freedom to conduct their financial trade more quickly and freely in their own currencies. India needs to take the idea of bilateral trade in local currencies forward with more vigour and promote rupee trade with as many countries as possible.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

By hook or by crook

Our politicians, especially from the ruling party, waste no opportunity to launch a high-decibel campaign against "illegal immigrants" into India. In contrast, when citizens from our country attempt to migrate to countries such as the U.S., illegally and suffer, then the people who matter are silent. The Page 1 report, "In Gujarat, illegal migration to U.S., continues unabated" (July 16) is a grim reminder about the sufferings of illegal immigrants. One hopes the Indian government will launch awareness campaigns about the pitfalls of illegal immigration.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

One can only think of the plight of the families back home who may not have any idea at all about the whereabouts of such migrants. It is baffling how the travails of illegal migrants have not deterred other potential 'migrants' from attempting very risky adventures. Earning ₹1,000 in one's homeland without fear and risks is much better than dreaming of earning $1,000 on foreign soil.

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

The Kuno cheetahs

The recent deaths of the cheetahs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, the eighth so far, have left many shocked and unable to understand what is going wrong. The reasons being given are violent fights and infections and diseases. The total cost of this project is estimated to be in several crores. As this is tax-payer's money, we need proper answers.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad, Haryana

Moving the animals across continents into new and unfamiliar habitats without proper scientific study is probably what has resulted in the deaths. India has enough and more of its own wildlife which it is unable to take care of properly. Was there a need to bring the cheetahs over?

S. Kamat,
Alto Santa Cruz, Goa

The cheetah mortality rate at Kuno is alarming and cause for serious concern. The authorities need to act fast to save the remaining cats.

N.J. Ravi Chander,
Bengaluru

All sorts of reasons are being given now, the latest being infection being caused by the radio collars on the animals.

Are the cats so delicate? Was the heavy Indian monsoon a factor that was well considered?

Janaki Vaidyanathan,
Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Architecture beyond the new Parliament

A. Srivathsan

is a professor at CEPT University.Views are personal

Architecture deserved to be at the centre of the recent inauguration of the Parliament building. In many ways, the event was about the value of design and the ability of Indian architects to build enduring structures on time. The new Parliament building calls for public attention to the growing reputation, enhanced competence, and potential of the architecture profession in India. Even the contestations around the project are about the public consequences of the profession.

However, architecture cannot serve and flourish further only if it is utilised in occasional public buildings or in more monumental projects. As the profession's history shows, architecture can extensively attend to the people's growing needs. Harnessing this potential will depend substantially on state investment in design.

A brief history

Over the last 100 years, the endeavour of a small group of trained architects with a few educational institutions has grown significantly. This is a result of serving public interests as much as private ones. Pre-independence, the challenge and urgency was to distinguish and define architectural services from other close professional claimants. Architects such as G.B. Mhatre in Mumbai and L.M. Chitale in Chennai demonstrated what the young profession could offer by building commendable structures from petrol stations, stadiums, and banks. Nation-building and extensive state support in independent India demanded the construction of many projects: new towns, industrial centres, housing and infrastructure. Architecture then efficiently filled everyday needs while simultaneously enabling the nation to function. Away from the overrated architectural axis of Delhi, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad, architects such as Chatterjee and Polk in Kolkata, J. C. Alexander in Thiruvananthapuram, and Chandavarakar and Thacker in Bengaluru made a case for good design to regional clients and state. Post-Emergency witnessed the urge to return to roots, producing gold and dross. If Uttam Jain's University buildings in Jodhpur were inspiring, Charles Correa's Jaipur museum was disappointing. The profession overgrew this problematic phase.

If the mainstream practice embraced concrete and cities, many architects, supported by able community leaders, explored alternative paths. They showed the relevance of using local materials, working with communities, housing the poor, and pursuing environmentally conscious practices. Cooperative refugee housing in Faridabad, rural institutions by architects trained under Laurie Baker, craft-based building rejuvenation by Parul Zaveri and Nimish Patel, and low-cost techniques mainstreamed by Revathi Kamath heralded sustainable practices.

Over the last two decades, a variety of practices has emerged, with about 70% spearheaded by young talents. Firms are geographically better spread, and architects are beginning to serve smaller towns. Buildings are speculative, critical, and, at the same time, pragmatic. A small but stunning brick vault school library in Kopargaon, near Shirdi; shelters built with care for elephants in Jaipur; the empathetic Ashwinikumar crematorium in Surat; village sports amenities in Adisaptagram in West Bengal, and other meaningful works are showing how good design in public service can enliven a place and enrich communities. Unfettered, many young Indian architects continue designing socially relevant buildings.

These accomplishments have raised expectations. However, how much more they can serve depends on bridging the gaps within the profession and, equally importantly, how well the profession's potential is harnessed in the public realm.

Architecture can extensively attend to the people's growing needs

At the professional end, vanity projects abound. Servicing the unreasonable demands of the markets and the profession's complicity in it raises doubts about the architects' interests. Gender disparity within the profession questions the lack of sensitivity. Widening gaps between low academic standards and increasing professional and industry expectations raise concerns about the skills.

The short-term goal

Architecture does not require radical inventions to correct and enhance its capabilities. In an essay in *The New Yorker*, surgeon-writer Atul Gawande points out that failures occur in professions that face uncertainties and complexities; however, what distinguishes a great profession from a mediocre one is not which one fails less but how quickly the profession rescues itself. A greater commitment is needed to design meaningful buildings, reinforce ethical orientation, make practice more inclusive, and upgrade competencies to build environmentally sensitive buildings and meet the challenges of technological disruption.

While these are within the profession's reach, what remains external to it is capitalising on the potential, particularly in public projects. Design's role in enhancing the quality of life and contribution to the economy is best realised in collective projects. Through its Design 2025 Masterplan, Singapore envisions using design as a key tool to strengthen the economy. Closer home, it is encouraging to see the Kerala government trying to create a 'design-based ecosystem' to build and preserve public assets.

While such ambitious plans could be a long-term goal, in the short term, the state could invest in the design and use of quality professional services by improving its procurement processes, creating credible selection methods, and lowering entry barriers for young talent to grow.

A needless controversy

Mr. Revanth Reddy's remarks on farmers has put the Congress in a spot

STATE OF PLAY

R. Ravikanth Reddy
ravikanth.ramasayam@thehindu.co.in

A remark made in the U.S. has ignited a fire thousands of miles away in Telangana. During his interaction with the Telugu Association of North America in Philadelphia, Telangana Congress president A. Revanth Reddy said that 95% of Telangana farmers have landholdings which are not more than three acres each, and that power supply for eight hours would be more than sufficient for them. He alleged that the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) government was using the 24-hour power supply scheme for political reasons. He also claimed that the government was spending ₹16,000 crore annually on the scheme even though it was not supplying power for more than 10-11 hours. He alleged that the remaining "₹8,000 crore was going into the vaults of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao in the form of commissions from the power bought."

The BRS was quick to term Mr. Revanth Reddy "anti-farmer" and hold protests. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao appealed to farmers to choose between 'Moodu Pantalu or Moodu Ghantalu' (three yields a year or three hours of power supply). Mr. Rao asked for farmers meetings to be held at Rythu Vedikas, a platform for farmers, across the State to "remind them them of how the dark days of the Congress had ruined the agriculture sector".

Not to be cowed down by the muscle and manpower of the BRS protests, Mr. Revanth Reddy claimed that it was Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy who as

Chief Minister had first provided free power to agriculture in 2004 despite opposition from the Telugu Desam Party, which, back then, included the present Chief Minister.

In response, Finance Minister T. Harish Rao challenged the Congress to a referendum on free power supply, confident that farmers have not faced significant issues in the last nine years. Accepting the challenge, Mr. Revanth Reddy called for 'gram sabhas' at all the 3,500 electric substations that supply power to verify the extent of power supplied daily. Congress MP Komatireddy Venkata Reddy visited a substation in Bandasomaram village in Bhongir mandal and displayed log book details to the media to prove that the government was providing only 11 hours of power to the farmers against its claims of 24x7 supply. Knowing that more Congress leaders could make such visits, the government issued strict instructions to staff working in the substations not to share the log book details with "outsiders". The BRS is yet to react to the 'gram sabhas' challenge.

This war of words has been raging since farmers can either help or ruin the chances of either of these parties in the coming Assembly elections. Farmers are a large voting bloc and no party can afford to antagonise them. The Rythu Bandhu scheme, which provides ₹5,000 an acre for each crop season to landholders, benefits 70 lakh farmers with different land-holding patterns. Though Mr. Revanth Reddy claims that 95% of farmers in Telangana have landholdings which are not more than three acres each, government data of 2015-16 show that 64.6% of the State's farmers are marginal farmers with land holdings below 2.47 acres. Small farmers who hold between 2.48 acres and 4.94 acres constitute 23.7%; semi-medium farmers who hold between 4.95 acres and 9.88 acres constitute 9.5%; and medium farmers who hold 9.89 acres to 24.77 acres constitute 2.1%. Large farmers who have24.78 acres constitute merely 0.2%.

Mr. Revanth Reddy's detractors within the party too have used the opportunity to blame him for raking up an unnecessary issue, which they say allows the BRS to score political points. Mr. Komatireddy Venkata Reddy said the Congress chief's remarks were his own and that the party was committed to 24-hour free supply as always. Trying to defuse the situation, supporters of Mr. Revanth Reddy said that Congress leaders should not fall into the BRS's trap. They claimed that the party had taken Mr. Revanth Reddy's remarks out of context. Vice president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Mallu Ravi said that the party must focus on talking about corruption in the BRS.

While the Congress is trying its best to wriggle out of this situation, the BRS is keen to use the opportunity to portray the Congress as "anti-farmer". The Bharatiya Janata Party, which is struggling with internal issues, has decided to keep away from the controversy, which has led to intrigue within political circles.

E-rickshaws to two-wheelers: The shift in share of electric vehicles

The number of electric vehicles has surged, but the share in the total number of vehicles still remains below 1%

DATA POINT

Lathika V, Krithika Ganapathy and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The number of electric vehicles in India has surged from just 2,400 a decade ago to over 27.4 lakh as of July 2023. However, given the concurrent rise in the number of non-electric vehicles, the overall share of electric vehicles has still not crossed the 1% mark. Notably, there is also wide inter-State disparity in the penetration of electric vehicles.

There has also been a dramatic shift in the class of electric vehicles over time. In the initial years, between FY2015 and FY2020, when the number of electric vehicles was growing at a relatively slow pace, the share of e-rickshaws in the mix was much higher than the share of electric bikes. However, in the last four fiscal years, as the absolute number of electric vehicles has increased at a quicker pace, the share of electric bikes has surged and surpassed the share of e-rickshaws.

Chart 1 shows the cumulative number of electric vehicles in India over time. As of July 14, 2023, India had 0.27 crore electric vehicles, 5 crore diesel vehicles, and 28 crore petrol vehicles. The share of electric vehicles was just 0.79%, with petrol vehicles forming over 80% and diesel motors contributing about 14.5%. The share of petrol/CNG hybrid (1.4%) was also higher than the share of electric vehicles, while with a 0.6% share, the petrol/LPG variant came close.

Chart 2 shows electric vehicles as a share of all vehicles registered in a State as of July 14, 2023. Assam ranked first with a share of 2.2% electric vehicles, followed by Tripura (about 2%). Delhi, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Goa had a share of over 1%. Among the major States, Himachal Pradesh had the lowest share with 0.11%, followed by Punjab (0.26%), Andhra Pradesh (0.40%), West Bengal (0.44%), and Madhya Pradesh (0.47%).

Chart 3 shows the share of various types of electric vehicles over time. In FY16, the share of e-rickshaws in total electric vehicles was 92% with other types such as two-wheelers, three-wheelers (other than e-rickshaws), and four-wheelers forming the rest of the 8%. Notably, an overwhelming number of e-rickshaws were used to carry passengers, while a few had carts for carrying goods or garbage.

Till FY20, there was no dramatic change in the share with e-rickshaws dominating with a market share of 82%. But the share of two-wheelers had started to rise by then. After FY20, the share of two-wheelers saw a drastic rise and peaked at about 60% in FY23, while the share of e-rickshaws came down to 32%. The latest financial year saw a small drop in the share of two-wheelers with the share of electric four-wheelers expanding beyond 5% for the first time. The share of electric three-wheelers other than e-rickshaws has remained below 5%.

Chart 4 shows the State-wise number of electric vehicles which are not e-rickshaws on the vertical axis. The share of non-e-rickshaws among all electric vehicles is depicted on the horizontal axis. The size of the bubbles corresponds to the total number of electric vehicles. All figures are as of July 14, 2023.

The shift in the mix of electric vehicles in India from e-rickshaws to two-wheelers was led by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, and Rajasthan. These States have a relatively high number of electric vehicles. The majority of these are not e-rickshaws, but two-wheelers.

On the other hand, in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam, e-rickshaws continue to dominate the share of electric vehicles. Therefore, these States do not contribute much to the shift.

Charged up

The data for the charts are collated from the Vahan Sewa Dashboard and the Centre for Energy Finance's Electric Mobility Dashboard

Chart 1 | The cumulative number of electric vehicles in India over time

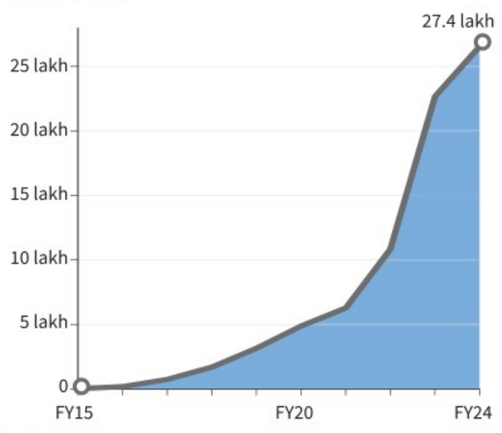


Chart 3 | The share of various types of electric vehicles over time

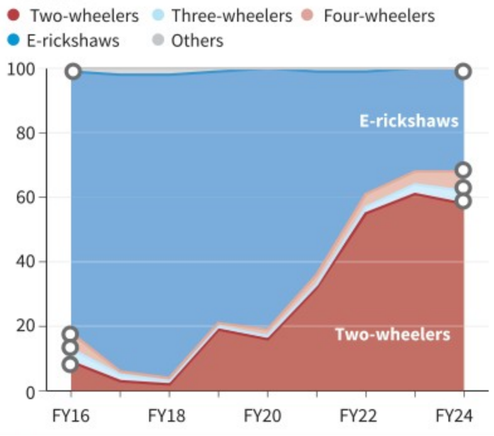
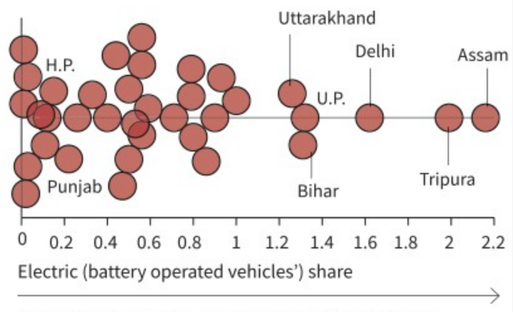


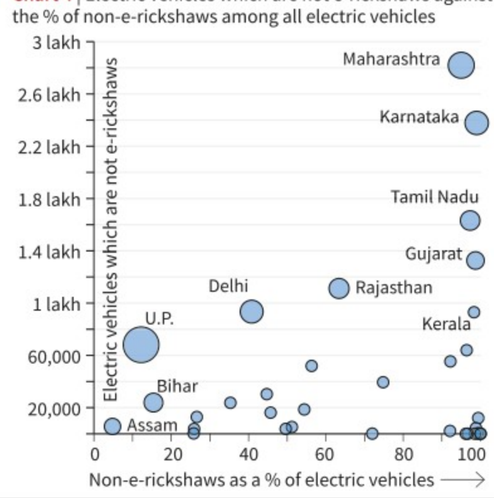
Chart 2 | Electric vehicles as a share of all vehicles registered in a State as of July 14, 2023



In the vahan dashboard, the number of electric two-wheelers was not available as a separate class of vehicles, whereas the number of e-rickshaws was available

Krithika Ganapathy and Lathika V. are interning with *The Hindu* Data Team

Chart 4 | Electric vehicles which are not e-rickshaws against the % of non-e-rickshaws among all electric vehicles



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1973

Indian judge holds Pak. has withdrawn case

The Hague, July 16: Mr. Nagendra Singh of India, Judge of the International Court of Justice, has expressed the view that there had been "a clear withdrawal" by Pakistan of its application against India. In a separate opinion attached to the Court's order on Pakistan's case, Mr. Nagendra Singh said that the Court "has no jurisdiction in relation to Bangladesh." "It is well known that Bangladesh is a sovereign State recognised by over 90 countries and now a regular member of the several specialised agencies of the United Nations and a distinct member of the international community. The fact remains, however, that without its consent there can be no exercise by the Court of jurisdiction in relation to its rights," he said. He therefore regretted that the Court had fixed time limits for the parties to plead on the question of jurisdiction. Mr. Nagendra Singh, who had voted with the majority in the order of the Court on Friday, suggested that the Court "should have declined to deal any further with the case, as judicial propriety does not permit the Court to advance any further therein." Mr. Singh said, "It appears to me that the Court has not been in proper seisin of the case from the very beginning. If that be so, it is regrettable to have instituted a further phase by fixing time-limits for the parties to plead on the question of jurisdiction." "However," Mr. Singh said, "it is true that the applicant, by its letter of July 11, 1973 requested the Court to agree to postpone the entire case, as the parties were about to enter into negotiations for an amicable settlement of the dispute. A request for postponement in relation to interim measures can only have the legal effect of withdrawal, which must take priority over all other considerations, particularly when India had declined to be present and has therefore no say in regard to the request of Pakistan."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 17, 1923

In China

The Diplomatic Corps Committee has concluded the investigation of the Liacheng outrage and it is understood that it has decided to demand 3,500 silver dollars for each foreign captive besides personal losses, the dismissal of the Military Governor of Shantung and the lesser officials and also the organisation of Railway guards under the foreign officers.

From Page One

No ticket for unpopular candidates: Chouhan

He said that during his rule, the State had seen an unprecedented increase in land under irrigation from 7.5 lakh hectares to over 47 lakh hectares now with a further push to take this number to 65 lakh hectares. "Our focus on women's empowerment, via *Ladli Laxmi* and now the *Ladli Behena* [income support of ₹1,000 per month to women between the ages of 23-60], along with our skilling programme for youth *Seekho Kamao* [learn and earn] where we give ₹8,000-10,000 per youth as they work in various establishments to learn employable skills, is an important intervention," he said.

On the perception of voter fatigue against the BJP after two decades in power in Madhya Pradesh, he said "anti-incumbency and these charges of fatigue were also there in 2008, but we overcame them. People call me '*Mama*' [maternal uncle] so I am not worried."

Lately, Mr. Chouhan's "*Mama*" (maternal uncle) image is being seen turning into a less than avuncular one, with the use of bulldozers in meting out punishments in certain cases. This seemingly contradictory fashioning of Mr. Chouhan's image was being seen as a sign of his insecurity in the age of bulldozer-led hardline governments led by BJP leaders like Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Chouhan, however, dismisses any talk of a contradiction in his image as "*Mama*" and "bulldozer Shivraj".

"I became Chief Minister in 2006, and at that time a part of Madhya Pradesh was considered riddled by dacoits, and this was alive in popular culture. I made sure that tough action was taken then. If you recall a Congress leader, sitting Minister of that time, Likhiram Kavre *ji*, was beheaded by Naxalites [in 1999]. I did not allow Naxalism to grow in Madhya Pradesh once BJP was in power. The network of the Students Islamic Movement of India, which grew under the Digvijaya Singh government, was finished by us, and even if SIMI members broke out of jail, they weren't allowed to run too far. I have always been tough on law and order," he said.

On targeting welfare programmes at women, he said it was something he thought deeply about from a young age. "In 1990, when I became an MLA, I started helping out families in challenging circumstances when daughters were to be married off. But I wanted to find a way of ensuring that daughters are never considered a burden by families, out of which came the *Ladli Laxmi* programme in 2006-07, of daughters being "Lakhpati" at birth. We connected this with education, at every stage of clearing levels of education, money would be deposited in their accounts. There was a lot of resistance, but we did it. The police resisted when I wanted to reserve 30% jobs in the police for women, *par maine woh dadagiri se karwaya* [I pushed it through almost by force]," he added.

India to push G-20 to raise MNC tax share

More than 140 countries were supposed to start implementing next year a 2021 deal overhauling decades-old rules on how governments tax multinationals. The present rules are widely considered outdated as digital giants such as Apple or Amazon can book profits in low-tax countries. The deal would levy a minimum 15% tax on large global firms, plus an additional 25% tax on "excess profits", as defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

But several countries have concerns about the multilateral treaty underpinning a major element of the plan, and some analysts say the overhaul is at risk of collapse. "India has made suggestions to get its due share of taxing rights on excess profits of multinational companies," one official said. The suggestions have been made to the OECD and will be discussed "extensively" during the G-20 meeting, the official said.

Three officials said India wants significant increase in the tax paid in countries where the firms do business. Under the agreement, global corporations with annual revenues over $22 billion are considered to be making excess profits if the profits exceed 10% annual growth. The 25% surcharge on these profits is to be divided among countries.

Panel wants cheetahs to undergo medical review

"In my 30 years of experience, I've never seen even one case. But we have to individually examine every animal, remove the collar and check them. It's a laborious exercise but we have no option," Dr. Gopal told *The Hindu*, "The collars used are polystyrene and are much lighter today compared with the ones used in earlier years," he added.

In a statement on Sunday, the Union Environment Ministry said that "...reports [on deaths being due to radio-collars] were not based on scientific evidence and were speculation and hearsay".

"The radio-collars were fitted on the animals in Namibia and South Africa itself. We have to take tissue samples from all animals, get them analysed in laboratories and have experts say if there are specific parasites, bacteria or viruses that the animals are unable to gain resistance to," an official in the Environment Ministry said, on condition of anonymity.

The Ministry's official statement emphasised that all the animal deaths so far could be attributed to "natural causes."

Two killed in Manipur in fresh round of violence

The victims include a 55-year-old Naga woman who suffered from mental illness, and a 34-year-old man from the Kuki village of Laimaton Thangbuh; Naga organisation calls 12-hour shutdown

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In a fresh round of violence, two persons were killed in separate incidents in the foothills of Manipur on Saturday and Sunday. The first incident took place in Imphal East on Saturday when Lucy Maring, a 55-year-old Naga woman who was ailing from mental illness, was found murdered. The woman was shot in the head and her face was disfigured, a police source said.

Arms made with uprooted electric poles and pipes recovered by the Army in Manipur. PTI

The Manipur Police said in a tweet on Sunday that nine accused, including five women, had been arrested in connection with the case and two arms, five rounds of ammunition and a car used in the crime were seized.

The United Naga Council (UNC), in a statement, said the victim was forcibly apprehended by a women's group and handed over to a private militia that killed her. The UNC has called for a 12-hour shutdown on Monday in all the Naga areas of Manipur to condemn the incident. It said since the beginning of the conflict between the Meitei and the Kuki communities, Nagas have maintained that peace must prevail.

It called for exemplary punishment for the culprits behind the killing of the woman. The Nagas, comprising 20 tribes, are the second-largest community in Manipur after the Meitei, who dominate the Imphal Valley.

In another incident, 40 to 50 armed miscreants stormed Laimaton Thangbuh, a Kuki village in Kangpokpi district in the hills, where a 34-year-old man, identified as Jangkholun Haokip, was killed.

Around 9 a.m. on Sunday, security forces reported an exchange of fire between two groups in the foothills.

A police source said that the village volunteers of the said village sighted the armed miscreants and an exchange of fire ensued between the two groups. An Army unit deployed in the vicinity rushed to the incident site and cut off the exit routes of the armed miscreants. "A huge mob of civilians, predominantly women, congregated in the foothills and security forces pushed back the mob from entering the hills. The miscreants however fled the area," the police source said.

On Sunday, a joint team of the police, the Army and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) conducted a six-hour cordon-and-search operation at Phaileng ridge adjoining Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts. During the operation, the teams were fired upon by armed miscreants. The security forces destroyed five bunkers and recovered a M16A2 rifle, a 9 mm carbine and a few rounds of ammunition.

Mosque Trust moves HC after Collector bans entry

Press Trust of India
AURANGABAD

As per the plea, the mosque was enlisted in the Schedule of protected monument by State government

A Trust managing a mosque in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra has moved the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court against the Collector's order banning entry into the premises following a complaint claiming that the structure had an "appearance of a temple".

The Trust's advocate, S.S. Kazi, said the petition would be taken up for hearing on Tuesday.

The petition, filed by the Jumma Masjid Trust Committee, through its president Altaf Khan, claimed that the Collector passed the "arbitrary and illegal" order on July 11, directing them to hand over the keys to the mosque to the Erandol Municipal Council's chief officer. As per the order, only two persons are allowed to offer *namaz* in the mosque at present and no one else can enter, Mr. Kazi said. The order, passed under Sections 144 and 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, says the *status quo* shall be maintained pending final decision on the dispute of the land.

As per the plea, the mosque has been in existence for decades and the State government had declared the structure an ancient and historical monument. It is enlisted in the Schedule of protected monuments.

The petitioner stated that no complaint had been received in that regard by the Archaeological Department, or even the government. In May, the Pandavwada Sangharsh Sameti in Erandol taluka, submitted an application to the Collector, claiming that the ancient monument had the "appearance of a mandir" and therefore the occupation of the Muslim community must be vacated, it said.

Women still minority at IITs, efforts on to achieve gender parity, says Preeti Aghalayam

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Preeti Aghalayam

Preeti Aghalyam, first woman to become the Director of an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), said that women were still a minority on the campuses. She said that despite constant efforts to improve the gender ratio on campuses, there was still a long way to go.

While the first IIT was set up at Kharagpur in 1951, it was after seven decades that a woman has been appointed head of the prestigious institute. But for Ms. Aghalayam, Director-in-charge of IIT-Zanzibar, it is not just about breaking the glass ceiling but also living the "once an IITian, always an IITian" theory.

IIT-Madras, set up in 1959, has become the first IIT in the country to launch an international campus, with the new institute in Zanzibar in Tanzania set to begin its first academic session in October.

"It is not just about breaking the glass ceiling for me. It is more of 'once and IITian, always an IITian' for me," she said.

"I studied at IIT Madras. I have worked at IIT Bombay before and have been teaching at IIT Madras since 14 years... Many of my great friends are from IITs and I also met my husband at IIT Madras," Ms. Aghalyam said.

Her appointment comes at a time when several IITs have been making an effort to improve the skewed gender ratio on campus. "It is a fact that women have been a minority at IITs. Things have improved a bit in the past few years but the problem still exists and it is at all levels – both at student and faculty [level]. The problem is not about gender inclusivity on campuses but about whole perception around technology institutions," she said.

Engineering colleges in India have come a long way since the 1990s when the ratio of men and women enrolment was 10:1. This decreased to 7:1 in the early 2000s, and to 4:1 in the mid and late 2000s. It deteriorated further in 2014 when most of the IITs had anywhere between 5% and 12% of women population on their campuses.

Nod for multi-role chopper by early 2024; Safran, HAL to set up firm in Bengaluru

Dinakar Peri
PARIS/NEW DELHI

The project sanction for the Indian multi-role helicopter (IMRH), being developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), is expected within this financial year, defence sources said.

> The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is expected to be submitted next month for approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security
> **DEFENCE SOURCE**

Meanwhile, Safran Helicopter Engines and the HAL have decided to set up their new joint venture in Bengaluru, which will be dedicated to the "design, development, production, sales and support of helicopter engines" with the focus first on the IMRH, the French company said.

The IMRH, expected to be ready by the end of this decade, is meant to replace the Mi-17s and will also have a naval version, the deck-based multi-role helicopter (DBMRH).

"The project is on schedule and HAL is utilising its own funds right now. The proof of concept is on track and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is expected to be submitted next month for approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security," a defence official said. Once sanctioned, the development is expected to take around seven years, the official added.

The project is estimated to cost around ₹10,000 crore for the two different versions, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier. The Coast Guard is also keen on the DBMRH customised to its requirements.

The Safran statement came just after a reference to it in the Indo-French joint statement issued on Friday, which said that to enable progress on the IMRH programme, a shareholders' agreement between HAL, India and Safran Helicopter Engine had been concluded for engine development.

"It will be dedicated to the design, development, production, sales and support of helicopter engines, with first objective to build the most adequate propulsion solution for the Indian Ministry of Defence's future 13-tonne IMRH and the DBMRH. This joint venture will be India's first engine design and manufacturing in-house," Safran said.

Govt. reduces subsidised tomato price to ₹80 a kg

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre is selling tomatoes at ₹80 a kg from Sunday, as against ₹90 a kg earlier, to provide relief to people from high prices of the key kitchen item in retail markets.

On Friday, the Centre started to sell tomatoes at a discounted rate of ₹90 a kg in Delhi-NCR through mobile vans. More cities were added on Saturday.

"There has been a decrease in the wholesale prices of tomatoes due to the intervention of the government to sell it at a concessional rate of ₹90 a kg, at several locations in the country where the prices were exceptionally high," an official statement said."After a re-assessment of the situation from across 500-plus points in the country, it has been decided to sell it at ₹80 per kg from Sunday," it added.

SC Collegium's quiet transparency is driving change

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium under Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has quietly and transparently streamlined the appointment process of judges to the constitutional courts while adding a deft mix of merit and seniority in the judicial ranks through a selection procedure which involves "meaningful discussion on and assessment of candidates' judicial acumen".

The once-constant tide of barbs from the government about the "opacity" of the collegium system has died off with the change of guard at the top in the Law Ministry. Recommendations made by the collegium for judicial appointment are now notified within days by the government.

Since early this year, the collegium's resolutions have embraced transparency. They have publicly laid bare the requirements for candidates in the zone of consideration for appointments to the top court and the High Courts.

Quality of judgments

Of primary concern for the collegium is the quality of judgments of the candidates. For this, their judgments are circulated among the members of the collegium, well in advance. The Centre for Research & Planning of the court also prepares a compilation of "relevant background material to assist the collegium".

There is also a Judgment Evaluation Committee which goes through the judicial work of the candidates with a fine-tooth comb. The judgments are graded, with the very best receiving an "outstanding" grade. This procedure of circulating the judgments of prospective candidates and making an objective assessment of their relative merit was introduced for the first time at a collegium meeting held on September 26 last year.

While proposing Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti for Supreme Court appointments on July 5, the collegium listed out the three basic criteria which guide its selection process to the top court.

"While recommending appointments to the Supreme Court, the collegium has taken into consideration the following aspects: the seniority of Chief Justices and senior puisne Judges in their respective parent High Courts as well as overall seniority of the High Court judges; The merit, performance and integrity of the judges under consideration; the need to ensure diversity and inclusion in the Supreme Court," the July 5 resolution said.

The collegium further explained that "diversity and inclusion" referred to the "representation of High Courts, which are not represented or are inadequately represented, in the Supreme Court; appointment of persons from marginalised and backward segments of society; gender diversity; and representation of minorities".

The same criteria were followed recently while proposing Chief Justices to the High Courts of Kerala, Orissa, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Telangana and Gujarat.

The Collegium made it clear that its selection of Chief Justices to these High Courts was purely based on the objective criteria in Paragraph 3 of the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) relating to appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts. "A fair representation shall be given to various High Courts for selection of Chief Justices. For purposes of such selection, *inter-se* seniority of puisne Judges will be reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Court. The consideration for appointment of Chief Justices shall be based on the criterion of seniority subject to merit and integrity," the MoP provided.

The Collegium's proposal to appoint Allahabad High Court judge Justice Sunita Agarwal as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat was a step towards the goal of gender diversity in the High Courts. "She would be the only woman Chief Justice of a High Court as presently there is no woman among the Chief Justices of the High Courts," it noted.

The objectivity was also apparent in its decision not to bow to the request made by three High Court judges – Justices Guarang Kanth, Dinesh Kumar Singh and Manoj Bajaj – against their out-of-State transfers. All three were told that their transfers were proposed to ensure the "better administration of justice". The government too backed the Collegium by notifying the transfer of the three judges within days.

In boost to BJP in Uttar Pradesh, Rajbhar-led SBSP returns to NDA

Decision was announced after the SBSP supremo met Amit Shah in Delhi; the renewed alliance is being seen as the BJP's attempt at gaining ground in eastern U.P., where the SP-SBSP alliance damaged its prospects in 2022 Assembly election

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Ending weeks of speculation, the Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) on Sunday joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and will fight the 2024 Lok Sabha election together.

The formal declaration was made after Mr. Rajbhar met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

"Met Shri Om Prakash Rajbhar*ji* in Delhi and he decided to join the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi*ji*. I welcome him to the NDA family. The arrival of Rajbhar*ji* will strengthen the NDA in Uttar Pradesh and the efforts being made by the NDA under the leadership of Modi*ji* for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden will get further strength," Mr. Shah said in a tweet.

Mr. Rajbhar said both parties would fight for social justice. "The Bharatiya Janata Party and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) have come together. Together, we will fight for social justice, the country's security and protection, good governance, and to strengthen the deprived, Backward Classes, Dalits, women, farmers, youth, and every marginalised section of society," he said in a tweet.

Fresh start: Home Minister Amit Shah with SPSP national president Om Prakash Rajbhar, right, in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Formed in 2002, the SBSP enjoys a sizeable support from the OBC Rajbhar community in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The party was in an alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP) during the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. The party won six of the 19 seats it contested. It broke away from the SP during the Presidential election.

The SBSP contested the 2017 Assembly election in an alliance with the BJP under the NDA and won four seats. Mr. Rajbhar was appointed Backward Class Welfare Minister in the first Yogi Adityanath Cabinet. He resigned, following a tussle with the BJP.

State BJP leaders welcomed the latest move of the SBSP. It will further strengthen the developmental vision and ideas of our leader Narendra Modi*ji* among the Backward Classes in the State, Uttar Pradesh Minister Danish Azad Ansari told *The Hindu*.

"It is not the matter of [the number of] Lok Sabha seats, but the idea is to effectively spread the development vision of our leader," Mr. Ansari added, when asked in how many seats the SBSP may be of help to the BJP.

A betrayal, says SP

The SP reacted sharply to Mr. Rajbhar's move to the NDA, describing it as a betrayal of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the marginalised sections.

"The SBSP chief himself used to say in rallies that the BJP is the biggest enemy of OBCs and is anti-reservation, vowing to never join hands with the party, but [he] suddenly took the decision [to join the NDA]. The OBCs and other marginalised communities are witness to the betrayal, and rest assured it will have no impact on the SP as our social alliance of PDA (*Pichre* or Backward Classes, Dalits, and *Alpashankhak* or minorities) is intact and will be more alert to the BJP's divisive tactics," SP national spokesperson Sunil Singh Yadav said.

The BJP's strategy of allying with the SBSP is also the result of its inability to perform well in the districts of Ghazipur, Mau and Azamgarh in eastern Uttar Pradesh, where the SBSP has presence.

The SP-SBSP alliance damaged the BJP's prospects in at least 20 seats in these districts in the 2022 election. The BJP drew a blank in Ghazipur, which has seven seats, and Azamgarh, which has 10, while winning only one of four seats in Mau district.

The renewed alliance with the SBSP is being seen as one among the many steps the BJP is taking ahead of the 2024 election.

Stage set in Bengaluru for the second meeting of Opposition party leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to hog the political limelight yet again with the upcoming meeting of Opposition parties looking to draw up plans for a joint fight against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. This is the second time in the past two months that Bengaluru will host a number of political leaders since several of them gathered for the swearing-in of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The meeting in Bengaluru follows the first such gathering in Patna last month to forge an anti-BJP political front.

This time around, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi will participate as well. After Congress announced its support for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on the issue of the Centre's Ordinance on Delhi services, the party will attend the meeting. Rashtriya Lok Dal leader Jayanth Choudhary, who had skipped the Patna meeting for personal reasons, will also be there.

Gearing up: Leaders from 23 Opposition parties are expected to attend the meet scheduled to be held in Bengaluru. ANI

In 2018, many regional parties displayed a similar show of strength when the short-lived (14-month) Janata Dal(S)-Congress coalition headed by former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy was sworn in. The optics was to send out as a signal of unity ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election. However, the JD(S) – which received a drubbing in the recent Assembly election at the hands of Congress – has not been invited to the current meeting, party sources said.

While leaders representing 23 parties are expected to attend Tuesday's meeting, Ms. Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi are scheduled to arrive on Monday. Congress general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala and media head Jairam Ramesh are already here for preparatory meetings, party sources said. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will host a dinner on Monday.

Party sources said that more meetings are likely to be held before arriving at a consensus on seat sharing, a probable common programme and a strategy to highlight the failures of the BJP government.

Post rebellion, Ajit faction leaders call on Sharad Pawar

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Amid the tussle for the control of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), rebel leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and leaders of his camp paid a surprise visit to party chief Sharad Pawar to seek his guidance on keeping the party united in future.

After the meeting, Senior leaders Praful Patel said: "We came to meet Mr. Pawar on knowing he was here at the Y.B. Chavan Centre. We did not inform him we were coming... we expressed the affection in our hearts about him and sought his blessings. We entreated him to think on how the NCP can remain as one party in the future and accordingly guide us on the same." However, Mr. Pawar merely heard out what the rebel leaders had to say without giving any reaction, he said.

Congress holds meeting on Uniform Civil Code as party awaits draft Bill

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

An eight-member group, set up to advise Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), feels that uniformity on personal laws of various communities is not necessary, though there is scope for reforms in personal laws.

On Saturday, members of the group held a closed-door meeting at the All India Congress Committee headquarters in which the overwhelming sentiment was to reject any "uniformity that doesn't respect India's diversity".

Sources said the group included eminent lawyers P. Chidamabaram, Abhishek Singhvi, Salman Khurshid, Manish Tewari, Vivek Tankha and K.T.S. Tusli. Lok Sabha member from Odisha and tribal leader Saptagiri Ulaka and Rajya Sabha member L. Hanumanthaiah, who is from a Scheduled Caste (SC), also took part in the meeting.

Making decisions: Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Salman Khurshid and Abhishek Singhvi after a meeting in New Delhi. ANI

So far, the Congress has stated that it will wait for a draft of the proposed UCC before taking an official stand.

Nothing final yet

"Though nothing is final yet and we will wait for a draft, most of us felt that there was no need for a UCC at this stage. In 2018, the 21st Law Commission had said in its report that the UCC is neither advisable nor feasible," said a member of the group.

"There may be a case to reform personal laws of different communities and that can be done after consultation with the stakeholders and the community concerned," he added.

The Congress chief constituted this advisory group after Prime Minister Narendra Modi – at a meeting of BJP workers last month in Bhopal – had made a strong pitch for the Uniform Civil Code.

The Prime Minister's push came just days after the 22nd Law Commission, headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, had started the process of public consultations in mid-June.

Asking for opinions and feedback from the public and organisation, the Law panel had said July 15 was the deadline for public consultations. However, it has now extended the last date to July 28.

Monsoon Session

With the Monsoon Session of Parliament scheduled to begin from July 20 and end on August 11, the government may not be able to bring in legislation in the forthcoming session.

"The government may think it's about one community but it's not. Tribals have their own customary law and the BJP's former ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, (SAD) has given strong arguments why UCC isn't required," a leader said.

Cong. stand on Delhi Ordinance a boost for BJP, SAD in Punjab

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Congress's decision to oppose in Parliament the Centre's Ordinance on the control of services in Delhi has provided the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) ammunition to target both the Congress and the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab.

Taking a dig, BJP national spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said, "It is now official that the AAP and Congress are 'one team'. The Congress has now become the spare wheel of the AAP and it is clear that both these parties are playing a fixed match."

Mr. Shergill pointed out that Congress MLA Partap Singh Bajwa, the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, had publicly insisted that the Congress must not support the AAP's position against the Ordinance. "However, the Congress 'high command' has clearly disrespected the demand, which makes it amply clear that nobody bothers about the Punjab unit in the AICC," he said. He said that the Congress had now lost its standing to question the AAP's anti-Punjab policies.

As the AAP sought to unite Opposition parties against the Ordinance, Mr. Bajwa had said that the AAP did not deserve any solidarity from the Congress, as it had unleashed a ruthless witch-hunt against party leaders in the State, making their lives hell by misusing the police and investigation agencies.

Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia said that the AAP's "unholy alliance" with the Congress had been exposed again.

"Punjabis can never trust such parties which oppose each other in front of people but strike underhand deals against the sentiments of their voters," he added.

Opposition alliance trying to protect dynasties: BJP

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR

BJP national president J.P. Nadda said on Sunday that Opposition parties were in the process of forming an alliance to "protect" dynastic politics and that the UPA stood for "*utpidan*, *pakshpat* and *atyachar*". [oppression, favouritism and atrocities]

The proposed coalition is not a "Patriotic Democratic Alliance" but a "Protection of Dynasties Alliance", he said. Calling the Congress a party of "mother-son-daughter", Mr. Nadda said its government in Rajasthan is setting new records of corruption and has no right to be in power even for a minute.

At an event in Jaipur, Mr. Nadda launched the party's poll campaign – *Nahi Sahega Rajasthan* – to oust the Congress from power in Rajasthan. Assembly polls are due in the State by the year-end.

North Bengal under water, relief team on the way

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

With a flood-like situation in certain parts of north Bengal, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said she was sending a high-level team to the region.

She tweeted: "Sending a high- level disaster management team tomorrow to flood- hit north Bengal under my Irrigation Minister [Partha Bhowmick] and including Secretaries of Disaster Management, Irrigation and Agriculture. North Bengal districts have received heavy rainfall, rivers have swollen, roads have been disrupted, properties have been damaged, people have been marooned." The Meteorological Centre has predicted rainfall in most of the districts on Monday.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.:-ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-1380 Date:- 11.07.2023
NIB No.:- PWD2324A1663
Notice Inviting Bid No. 12/2023-24
Bids for 04 No. Works are invited from interested bidders upto **06.00 PM on Thursday 27 July 2023.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs 63.26 Crore.**
UBN No.: PWD2324WSOB07974, 07976, 07977 & PWD2324WLOB07975.
(Deepak Bhargava),
Additional Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/10124 PWD, Zone, Ajmer

E-mail:- acejaipur2.pwd-rj/ acezoneii@yahoo.com
Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur
Phone :- 0141-2226537 Ex.:- 299
File No. 624 Date- 07/07/23
Short-Term NIB NO-14/PMGSY/2023-24
Short-Terms Bids for 2 No. Packages for upgradation of Rural Roads in Alwar District are invited from interested bidders upto 12-00 Noon on 20-07-2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 895.97 lacs.
UBN:

S. No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2324WLOB07701
2	PWD2324WSOB07703

Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/10247 PWD Zone-II, Jaipur

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK
S.No. 1900-1909 **Dated 12/7/2023**
Notice Inviting Bid
NIT 22/2023-24
01 Nos. Bids for Upgradation of Rural Road PMGSY Scheme under Phase-III (Batch-II) for the year 2022-23, Zone Tonk (Provision of Defect liability period is 5 Years) are invited from interested bidders upto 20-07-2023 Time 12.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in of the state; and Public Works department Rajasthan website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 270.46 Lacs.
NIB code PWD 2324A1687
UBN is: PWD2324WSOB08079 (R. S. Bairwa)
DIPR/C/10360 Addl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D., Zone, Tonk.

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
Regd. Office: The Annapurna Nagar Public Servants Co-Operative House Building Society, Plot No: 80/A, 81/A, Gorantla, Guntur.
EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE
Ref.No.OP.001/EPW/2023-24/Gen/371, Date: 07-07-2023
Sale of about **4.41** lakh mt. of **Eucalyptus debarked pulpwood** anticipated from **(48)** Units of Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, is proposed to be held through e-Tender cum e Auction on "Konugolu" a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., **"https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in"** from **11.00** hrs to **13.00** hrs (1st spell) and from **14.00** hrs to **16.00** hrs (2nd spell) on **9th of August, 2023.** Units remaining unsold / unconfirmed will be exposed for sale again on **23rd August, 2023 & 7th September, 2023. For More details** please visit the websites: **https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in** & **https://www.apfdcl.com.**
Sd/- N.Prateep Kumar, IFS.,
DIPR 2208PP/CL, Dt: 14-07-2023 Vice Chairman and Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, (PROJECT) PHED CHURU (RAJ.)
Tel. 01562-251415, e-mail-acephedchuru@gmail.com
S.No. 1047-1087 **Date : 06-07-2023**
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for following works are invited from interested bidders upto 18.00 hrs 29.07.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website https://phed.raj.nic.in

NIT No	Work Description	Estimated Cost
06/ 2023-24 ACE(P) Churu	Bids for the Work of operation & maintenance work on private contract of all the three packages (KLC-01, KLC-02 and KLC-03) of water supply project Kolayat lift canal as a single O&M contract with O&M of pumping stations on ESCO mode for 10 year and that of remaining components on private contract basis for 10 years UBN No PHE2324WLOB04508	Rs. 1554.06 Lacs
Short Term 07/ 2023-24 ACE (P) Churu	Work of Drinking water supply project of 26 nos. villages of tehsil Sidhmukh (Block Rajgarh), District Churu with 10 year O&M (Apni Yojna Phase-I, Package-2) UBN is: PHE2324WLOB04515	Rs. 68.19 Crore

SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE
(Anurag Sharma)
Executive Engineer & TA
DIPR/C/10013 PHED Project Region Churu

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR-751022
Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1349/01/2018(Part-II) / 21772 Date :- 13.07.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	**Supply. Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Centrifugal Pump sets at Intake Pump House on Bargarh main canal for water supply to Biomass Ethanol Plant of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Bargarh**	₹ 19.58 lakhs	02 (Two) Calendar Months

I. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022.	Bid ID.no. P&C/EST/ E-58/2023-24	17.00 Hours of dt. 17.07.2023	17.00 Hours of dt. 27.07.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal **www.tenderodisha.gov.in** as well as IDCO website **www.idco.in.**
Sd/-Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-1299: OIPR-14003/11/0120/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE,EC-I/10 of 2023-24 (On-line)

1.	Name of Work	:	Lining of Karandia Branch Canal from RD 0.00 Km to RD 6.300 Km. Bid Identification No. ACE,EC-I MND 06 of 2023-24.
2.	Tender Paper Cost (Non-refundable)	:	Rs.10,000.00 (On-line)
3.	Bid details are as follows	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Amount (Rs.in Lakh) (Approx.)	EMD	Class of Contra-ctor	Period of Comple-tion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
						From	To	
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I MND 06 of 2023-24	744	Rs.7,44,000.00 (On-line)	'A' & Special	11 (Eleven) Calendar months	18.07.2023 at 10.00 hrs.	01.08.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.	02.08.2023 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.
A-346 : Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.
OIPR-32370/11/0014/2324

INBRIEF

Focus on research in animal husbandry, fisheries: Tomar

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday asked farm scientists to focus more on research in areas of animal husbandry and fisheries, to boost production and contribution in the farm sector. Addressing virtually the 95th foundation day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Mr. Tomar said India holds the position of "number one or two in the world" in production of most of the crops. He said there has been contribution from agriculture scientists along with efforts by the farming community and initiatives taken by the governments. He added that Indian farm products are being globally accepted and the annual farm export has crossed $50 billion. PTI

Relatives of Seema don't want her to return to Pakistan

A Pakistani mother of four, who sneaked into India to live with a Hindu man whom she befriended through an online gaming platform, has been ostracised by her family and neighbours for daring to defy the societal norms. Seema Ghulam Haider and Sachin Meena got in touch while playing PUBG in 2019. Seema was arrested for illegally entering India without a visa with her children, and Sachin was put behind bars for sheltering the undocumented immigrants. They were released from jail recently, but the news from across the border is not so positive. Seema's neighbours and a relative made it clear that they do not want her back. PTI

Commerce Secretary visiting U.K. for free trade discussions

Following the trip of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal is visiting London this week to take stock of the negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the U.K., an official said. During the visit scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Barthwal will hold discussions with senior British officials about the proposed trade agreement. A negotiating team from India is already in London for the 11th round of talks. Mr. Goyal concluded his visit on July 12. The official said that both visits are important as the talks are now at a crucial stage. PTI

Over 1.44 lakh kg of drugs to be destroyed today

More than 1.44 lakh kilograms of drugs estimated at ₹2,416 crore will be destroyed in various parts of the country on Monday in the virtual presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The destruction of the narcotics will be carried out in different cities and Mr. Shah will watch it through video-conferencing from New Delhi while attending a conference on "Drugs smuggling and national security," an official statement said. The drugs to be destroyed will include 6,590 kg seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau Hyderabad unit, 822 kg by the Indore unit and 356 kg bythe Jammu unit. Agencies of different States will also destroy drugs. PTI

Lightning not a natural disaster, says Centre

Number of deaths due to lightning has been increasing of late; if it joins the list of natural disasters, victims will be entitled to compensation under the State Disaster Response Fund; but an official says Centre is not in favour of it as deaths can be prevented through awareness programmes

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government is not in favour of declaring lightning a natural disaster as deaths caused by it can be prevented by making people aware of safety steps, a senior government official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, says.

India is among only five countries in the world that has an early warning system for lightning – the forecast is available from five days to up to three hours.

The States such as Bihar and West Bengal have been demanding that lightning deaths be covered as a natural disaster. Once this is notified, the victims will be entitled to compensation from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The Centre makes 75% of the contribution to the SDRF.

Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslip, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold wave are now considered disasters under the SDRF.

Massive toll

Bihar's Disaster Management Minister Shahnawaz Alam told *The Hindu* that Bihar is one of the most vulnerable States and as many as 107 had died after being struck by lightning till July 6.

"In the past few years, there has been a spurt in deaths due to lightning. It is possible that climate change is one of the reasons. In the past five years, more than 1,500 people have lost their lives in Bihar. On June 25, 2020, more than 100 people died in a single day after they were struck by lightning," Mr. Alam said.

A flash of lightning illuminating the skies in Mysuru. PTI

He said he had raised the issue at the July 13 meeting of State Ministers of Disaster Management that was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

The Minister said that timely alerts were sent out to people and pamphlets were distributed at the panchayat level to make people aware of the dangers associated with lightning.

"There are times when people acknowledge the message and take adequate precautions, but during peak farming season, sometimes people tend to ignore the warnings. Some of them are receptive but it is the poorest who bear the brunt," Mr. Alam said.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data show that 2,880 people died in lightning strikes in 2021.

The deaths made up 40% of all accidental deaths caused by "forces of nature".

While 2,862 people died in 2020, the number stood at 2,876 in 2019. There has been an increase in proportion of such deaths compared with the total accident deaths caused by events related to nature.

For instance, in 2003, deaths from lightning made up just 0.2% of the total deaths caused by "forces of nature".

A presentation made by the Director-General, India Meteorological Department (IMD) at the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (NPDRR) in March said the frequency of lightning was the highest in northeastern States and in West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar, but the number of deaths is higher in the central Indian States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

Army troops for bilateral exercise in Ulaanbaatar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian and Mongolian troops will take part in the 15th edition of a bilateral military exercise in Ulaanbaatar from July 17 to 31 aimed at exchanging best practices and developing interoperability, the Ministry of Defence said on July 16.

An Indian Army contingent comprising 43 personnel reached Ulaanbaatar on Sunday on an Indian Air Force C-17 aircraft to take part in the exercise, "Nomadic Elephant-23", the Ministry said in a statement.

"The aim of this exercise is to build positive military relations, bonhomie, camaraderie and friendship between the two Armies. The primary theme of the exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain under United Nations mandate," the statement said.

"Nomadic Elephant" is an annual training exercise that is conducted alternatively in Mongolia and India. Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 and the Indian Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment will participate in the exercise, the Ministry said.

IIM undergraduate programme likely to have single entrance test

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Class 12 student Saksham Tiwari, 18, from Lucknow is an MBA aspirant. But instead of asking him to pursue a two-year programme after graduation, his teacher insisted that he start preparing for the five-year integrated MBA programme offered by a handful of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

But if Mr. Tiwari wants to keep all his admission options open, he will have to appear for entrance exams conducted by each IIM to make the cut.

"Like the Common Admission Test (CAT) for the two-year postgraduate programme of the IIMs, the entrance exam for the five-year IPM [Integrated Programme for Management] could be centralised too. This would reduce the hassle of individually applying for different institutes," Mr. Tiwari says.

Single test proposal

To ease the pressure on aspirants, a proposal to centralise the entrance exam for the five-year integrated course is now being considered, says an RTI response from the IIM-Jammu. "There is a discussion initiated by this institute for a single admission test for admissions in the IPM programme for all IIMs," it said. Confirming this to *The Hindu*, IIM-Jammu's Director B.S. Sahay says, "IIM-Jammu has supported the proposal in the interest of students, but till date no final decision has been taken."

A challenge for aspirants appearing for multiple entrance tests at the undergraduate level is the clash in dates. K. MURALI KUMAR

The IPM, which offers a degree in management and an MBA, is now available at the IIMs at Indore, Jammu, Bodh Gaya, Ranchi and Rohtak.

The IIM-Indore selects students through the IPM Aptitude Test (IPMAT), which is also accepted by the IIM-Ranchi, while admission to those in Jammu and Bodhgaya require students to write the Joint IPM Aptitude Test (JIPMAT), conducted by the National Testing Agency. Tata Consultancy Services conducts an IPM Aptitude Test for admission to the IPM programme at the IIM-Rohtak, according to another RTI response. Noting that each IIM is autonomous in the way they decide to conduct intake of students, a top official at the IIM-Rohtak said the decision to centralise the exam did not lie under the purview of any individual IIM but has to be a joint discussion with the Education Ministry.

Higher costs

RTI activist Chandrashekhar Gaur found that his daughter, an IPM aspirant, was stretched thin appearing for multiple entrance tests. "Multiple exams require repeated registration and fresh payment for every exam. It also requires repeated travel for students to nearby cities where the exams are conducted," he says. "The application fees for, say, IIM-Indore (₹4,130) is double of what the IIM-Jammu charges, ₹2,000, for general category students. The IIM-Rohtak separately charges ₹4,175."

Another challenge for aspirants appearing for multiple entrance tests at the undergraduate level is the potential clash in dates of these exams.

In 2019, 6,678 students registered for the IPMAT, and this more than doubled to 14,088 by 2022. Less than 1% of the aspirants were actually selected, with an intake of only 167 for the 2022-2027 programme, barely higher than the 149 admitted into the 2019-2024 batch.

Professor Sahay says that IPM students at the IIM-Jammu are offered an option to exit after completing each year of the course.

"If they choose to exit in the first year, they will be provided with a certificate in basic management, in the second year, a certificate in advanced management, and if they finish the third year successfully, they receive a BBA degree. This is in line with the National Education Policy guidelines," he says. Those who stay beyond the third year and enter the MBA section have some assimilation advantages over those who join the programme at this stage.

PSLV-C56 to lift off with seven satellites

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After Friday's spectacular start to the Chandrayaan-3 moon mission, scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be back in Sriharikota for another important launch later this month.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C56 (PSLV-C56) mission is expected to lift off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on July 26, as per the latest updates. The ISRO will be using a "core alone" variant of the PSLV for this mission, S. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO's lead facility for launch vehicles, told *The Hindu*.

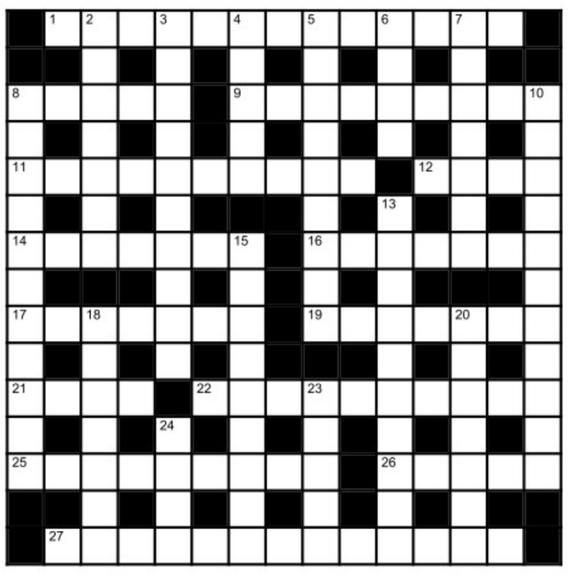
A commercial mission, the PSLV-C56 will have seven payloads in all including the 351.9-kg earth observation satellite DS-SAR (short for Synthetic Aperture Radar) from Singapore. The others are Arcade (23.58 kg), Velox-AM (23 kg) and Orb-12 Strider (12.8 kg). The remaining three are nanosatellites weighing less than 10 kg each. They are Galassia-2 (3.84 kg), SCOOB-II (4.1 kg) and NuLIon (3.05 kg), the VSSC said. These satellites will be placed in a low earth orbit.

TH CROSSWORD + 13919

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Roll around unclothed, cavorting all day and all night (5,3,5)
8 Group of eight in circle beginning to celebrate Vietnamese festival (5)
9 Corrupt liars crushed by excellent system of power-sharing (9)
11 One cooing in bar, director's bitten by true love perhaps (10)
12 Goes out with young socialites wanting date around Britain (4)
14 Shows former partners taking bribe in retreat (7)
16 A little emotional, overwhelmed by specially heroic farewell (7)
17 Warning around a river starting to spook rowers (7)
19 Bounds about in circles after snorting lines (7)
21 Broadcasting about fine retreat (4)
22 Ignored perv slyly grabbing butt at end of dance party (6,4)
25 Old, defective guns finally recoil upwards (9)
26 Tongue is right inside beak (5)
27 Character on beach rushes to entertain girl in a pretentious manner (4,3,6)

Down

2 Exposed rock formation, cut or blasted in operation (7)
3 Overall, book about the French society is irritating (10)
4 President overwhelmed by abstinence, turning apathetic (5)
5 Oral after English test, endlessly confusing (9)
6 Clue in puzzle, admirable (4)
7 Mountaineer in front of camp, agile (7)
8 In succession, third umpire will decide if ball was caught like this? (2,3,6)
10 Lass provides shelter to criminal? Real mistake! (11)
13 Warning girl consuming party drug (10)
15 Commotion by insane sot going berserk (9)
18 Child captivated by excited rhino making rattling sounds (7)
20 Observe other side of coin bearing head (7)
23 Spray given by doctor after slip on vacation (5)
24 Most luxurious asset (4)

SUDOKU

		8	2		5	4		
6	4						5	
9		2		6	1			
5	2	4						3
3						5	8	2
			3	8		1		7
	1						2	6
		9	1		6	8		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5860 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

R	■	B	■	K	■	A	■	S	■	Y	■	Y	■	S
A	D	O	R	I	N	G	■	T	A	U	T	E	S	T
J	■	W	■	E	■	O	■	A	■	G	■	L	■	U
P	A	L	A	V	E	R	■	T	R	O	L	L	O	P
U	■	E	■	■	■	A	■	U	■	S	■	O	■	I
T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R	■	L	E	W	E	D
■	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	E
C	A	V	E	R	N	S	■	S	E	V	E	R	E	R
O	■	I	■	D	■	E	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	■
D	E	N	I	M	■	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
L	■	T	■	A	■	D	■	N	■	■	■	X	■	O
I	O	N	I	S	E	S	■	F	L	A	T	C	A	P
N	■	E	■	T	■	M	■	E	■	M	■	O	■	E
G	E	R	B	E	R	A	■	S	C	O	R	N	E	R
S	■	S	■	R	■	N	■	T	■	S	■	S	■	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	1	5	2	3	6	9	7
5	9	2	7	6	8	1	4	3
7	3	6	4	9	1	2	5	8
2	4	9	1	7	5	3	8	6
8	7	5	3	4	6	9	1	2
6	1	3	2	8	9	4	7	5
9	5	8	6	1	2	7	3	4
1	6	7	8	3	4	5	2	9
3	2	4	9	5	7	8	6	1

FAITH

The greatness of Acharyas

Both Dhritarashtra and Sanjaya had their education under the tutelage of sage Veda Vyasa. Dhritarashtra thought he belonged to the royal family and also boasted of rewarding the sage for his teachings. But Sanjaya was full of humility. He kept telling himself that he was fortunate of learning from a great acharya.

Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar said in a discourse that Sanjaya was blessed by the grace of Veda Vyasa to have the divine sense of perception (*divya chakshus*) to witness the Kurukshetra battle and also listen to the instructional advice (*upadesa*) of Lord Krishna to Arjuna (*Vyasa prasadath sruthavan* – Bhagavad Gita chapter 18 sloka 75). Dhritarashtra was bereft of the same because he did not have deep *guru bakthi*. It only shows that we should repose faith in and pay obeisance to our gurus. Even if a person teaches one letter he must be considered as a guru (*ekaakshara pradhatha*). A disciple may have several gurus but the greatest of all is the one who teaches the "*moksha sasthras*".

Our mental darkness can be classified into 3 types – not knowing (*ajnanam*); understanding in a different sense (*anyatha jnanam*); understanding in an inverted sense (*vipareetha jnanam*). An acharya removes all these from our mind and lights the lamp of knowledge. It is said that even God cannot suggest a suitable recompense for the help of the acharyas (*Mayanum kanagillan*). We should ever be grateful to our acharyas, keep praising them and recall what they had taught us (*potri ugappadhum*). Scriptures say the tongues of Acharyas are the royal seats on which Lord Hayagreeva, the God of education, is seated.

PARIS

Jane Birkin, British-French celebrity and style icon, dies at 76

AP

Jane Birkin, the British-born singer and actress who became a style icon in her adopted France, has died. She was 76. She catapulted to fame through her turbulent relationship with singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg and her heavily accented French, which became one of her signatures in her adopted home. AFP

NEW YORK

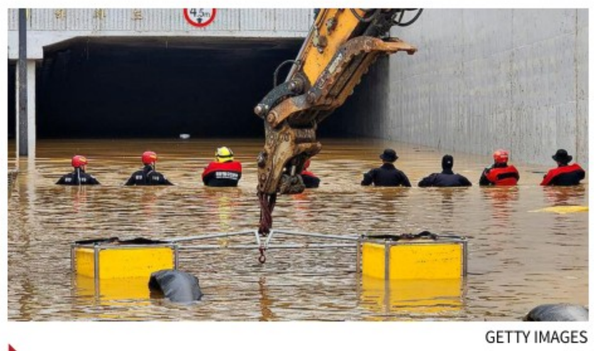
Twitter owner Musk says platform has lost half its advertising revenue

AFP

Twitter has lost roughly half of its advertising revenue, according to owner Elon Musk, since he bought the social media platform for $44 billion last October. "We're still negative cash flow, due to ~50% drop in advertising revenue plus heavy debt load," the billionaire tweeted on Saturday. AFP

SEOUL

Rescuers battle it out in South Korea where rain, floods kill 33



GETTY IMAGES

Rescuers battled to reach people trapped in a flooded tunnel on Sunday in South Korea, where at least 33 people have died and 10 are missing after heavy rain caused flooding and landslips. Rescue workers were still struggling to reach more than 10 cars trapped in a 430-metre underground tunnel in Cheongju. AFP

TEHRAN

Morality police return in Iran 10 months after Amini's death

AP

The Iranian police relaunched patrols to catch the women leaving their hair uncovered in public in defiance of a strict dress code. The move comes exactly 10 months after the September 16 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, 22, triggered protests and saw morality police disappear from the streets, while flouted the law. AFP

U.K. formally signs up to trans-Pacific trading bloc

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

The U.K. government on Sunday hailed what it said was its biggest trade deal since Brexit, as it formally signed a treaty to join a major Indo-Pacific bloc.

Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch signed the accession protocol for the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in New Zealand.

It makes the U.K. the first new member and first European nation to join the bloc since it was created in 2018.

The CPTPP comprises Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Russia has sufficient stockpile of cluster bombs, says Putin

Russian President warns Moscow 'reserves the right to take reciprocal action' if Ukraine uses the controversial weapon; he claims to have not used the munitions in the Ukraine war so far

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published on Sunday that Russia has a "sufficient stockpile" of cluster munitions, and warned that Russia "reserves the right to take reciprocal action" if Ukraine uses the controversial weapons.

In his first comments on the delivery of cluster munitions to Ukraine from the U.S., Mr. Putin said that Russia has not used cluster bombs in its war in Ukraine so far. The use of cluster bombs by both Russia and Ukraine has been widely documented, including by the Associated Press and international humanitarian organisations, and cluster rounds have been found in the aftermath of Russian strikes.

War remnants: Police officers look at collected fragments of the Russian rockets, including cluster rounds, that hit Kharkiv. AP

"Until now, we have not done this, we have not used it, and we have not had such a need," he said.

Rossiya TV reporter Pavel Zarubin published excerpts of the interview to his Telegram channel on Sunday.

The Pentagon said on Thursday that cluster munitions provided by the U.S. had arrived in Ukraine.

Cluster bombs have long been criticised by humanitarian groups, and some U.S. allies, because those used in previous conflicts have had a high "dud rate," meaning that they often leave behind unexploded bomblets that can harm civilians long after a battle has ended.

The Ukrainian military said that over the previous 24 hours, Russia had launched two Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones, two cruise missiles and two anti-aircraft guided missiles, in addition to 40 airstrikes and 46 attacks from multiple rocket launchers.

Dangerous heatwaves felt across globe as wildfires rage

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Scorching weather gripped three continents on Sunday, whipping up wildfires and threatening to topple temperature records as the dire consequences of global warming take shape.

Predictions of historic heat hung over swathes of Asia, Europe and the U.S.

Japan issued heatstroke alerts to tens of millions of people in 20 of its 47 prefectures as near-record high temperatures scorched large areas and torrential rain pummelled other regions.

Heat fix: The U.S. expects a powerful heatwave stretching from California to Texas to peak during the weekend. REUTERS

Warning issued

The United States National Weather Service reported that a powerful heatwave stretching from California to Texas was expected to witness its peak during an "extremely hot and dangerous weekend".

California's Death Valley, often among the hottest places on Earth, is also likely to register new peaks on Sunday, with the mercury possibly surpassing 54 degrees Celsius.

Southern California is fighting numerous wildfires, including one in Riverside County that has burned more than 3,000 hectares and prompted evacuation orders.

In Europe, Italians were warned to prepare for "the most intense heatwave of the summer and also one of the most intense of all time". The thermometer was still climbing after predictions of historic highs on Tuesday led the Health Ministry to sound a red alert for 16 cities including Rome, Bologna and Florence.

Iraqi PM in Damascus in first trip since Syrian war

Reuters
BAGHDAD

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani began an official visit to Syria on Sunday, the first by an Iraqi premier since the outbreak of the Syrian war in 2011.

Farhad Alaaldin, foreign affairs adviser to the Prime Minister, said Mr. Sudani was set to discuss combatting the flow of drugs, especially the amphetamine Captagon, and preventing the infiltration of Islamic State militants over their shared 600-km border.

The Prime Minister would also discuss trade and economic cooperation and possibilities for reopening an oil export pipeline in the Mediterranean, which could help Iraq diversify its export routes, he said.

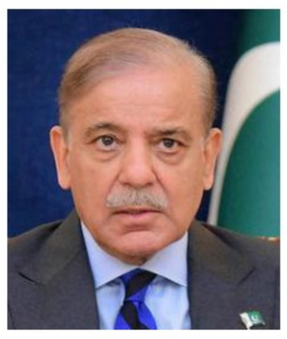
Shehbaz to hand over power to interim govt. before end of tenure

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced that his government would hand over the power to a caretaker set-up before the completion of its tenure next month, indicating the National Assembly is going to be dissolved days before the completion of its tenure to pace the general election in November.

Just a couple of days ago the Premier had announced that his government would complete its tenure which is ending on August 13. However, Mr. Shehbaz's change of mind appears to be on advice from his allied Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Asif Ali Zardari.

"Zardari in a meeting with PM Shehbaz on Saturday asked him to dissolve the National Assembly a couple of days before the government completes its tenure," a senior PPP leader said.



Shehbaz Sharif

Under the Constitution, if the National Assembly completes its term, polls are to be held within 60 days. But if the Assembly is dissolved prematurely, it would give the government 90 days to conduct elections.

Dacoits attack temple in Pak. with rocket launchers

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

A Hindu temple was attacked with rocket launchers by a gang of dacoits in the southern Sindh province of Pakistan on Sunday, in the second such incident of vandalism of a place of worship belonging to the minority community in less than two days.

The assailants attacked the small temple built by the local Hindu community and adjoining homes belonging to members of the minority community in the Kashmore area of the Sindh province.

The attack came after the Mari Mata Temple in Karachi's Soldier Bazar was razed to the ground by bulldozers in the presence of a heavy contingent of police force late on Friday night.

Oil to be pumped from decaying Yemen tanker

Agence France-Presse
HODEIDA

A UN-owned ship arrived off war-torn Yemen on Sunday for a risky operation to pump more than a million barrels of oil from a decaying tanker and prevent a catastrophic spill.

After years of tense diplomacy between the United Nations, Yemen's Houthi rebels and the internationally recognised government, the *Nautica* will soon moor alongside the *FSO Safer*, a rusting super-tanker in the Red Sea.

The delicate operation to transfer 1.14 million barrels of Marib Light crude to the *Nautica*, bought by the United Nations for the operation, is expected to begin in the coming days.

Risky business: Maintenance operations on the *Safer* were suspended in 2015 because of Yemen's war. AFP

"The risk is high. The risk is very high," said Mohammed Mudawi, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) project manager for the ship Safer.

"But we are hoping with the completion of the project that this will be eliminated."

Maintenance operations on the *Safer* were suspended in 2015 because of Yemen's war, and the UNDP has for years warned it could "explode at any time".

A major spill could result in ecological disaster, devastate Yemeni fishing communities, and close lifeline ports and desalination plants.

The potential spill – which could cost more than $20 billion to clean up – would possibly reach Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.

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A BG-BGE

Why just diversifying investments is not enough

THINKINVESTOR

Diversification reduces the risk that a company-specific or sector-specific negative event does not hurt your investment returns. It is not meant to protect your portfolio from a decline in the equity market

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

It may not be enough to diversify your investments, especially if you believe that equity markets can decline sharply when you are closer to the end of the time horizon for a life goal. In this article, we look at alternatives to help moderate the risk associated with your goal-based portfolios.

Likelihood and magnitude

Diversification, if done appropriately, may suffice if the magnitude of the market decline is small and there is a low likelihood of the decline happening closer to the end of the time horizon for your life goal. Why? Diversification reduces the risk that a company-specific or sector-specific negative event does not hurt your investment returns. It is not meant to protect your portfolio from a decline in the equity market.

What if the likelihood of an equity market decline is low but the magnitude of the decline is expected to be high? You cannot recover unrealised losses or the loss of unrealised gains in time to achieve your goal. Why? For one, your equity investment must earn a required return to achieve your goal.

A decline in market means that the investment has failed to achieve the required return. For another, your equity investment must preserve its already-accumulated unrealised gains to achieve the goal; a market decline could lead to giving-up those gains. It is difficult to bridge the resultant shortfall in a short period, say three to four years.

In such cases, buying an insurance is an optimal choice, for insurance is supposed to mitigate risk arising from low likelihood, high magnitude event. But you cannot buy an insurance to protect the downside risk associated with your investments. So, you must self-insure to moderate this risk. That is, you must be willing to transfer funds from a longer-horizon goal-based investment such as your retirement portfolio in the event the market declines and you face a shortfall in your near-term goal.

Conclusion

The biggest issue with equity investments is when the magnitude of the decline could be significant, and the likelihood of the decline is high. You must then consider a two-step process to moderate the risk. First, substantially reduce equity investments in your portfolio and move the proceeds to cumulative fixed deposits that mature at the end of the time horizon for your life goal. And second, increase your savings and set up a new recurring deposit to bridge the shortfall that will arise from lower expected return because of transferring investments from equity to bonds.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Lessons from Berkshire's latest acquisition

Warren Buffet's most recent purchase of Occidental Petroleum for billions of dollars highlights not only the Berkshire way of investing aptly, but also acts as an indicator of general market sentiment

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

Warren Buffet, the chairman of Berkshire Hathaway (a large multi-national conglomerate), has a reputation for being an extraordinarily skilful and meticulous investor. Warren Buffet started investing at the age of 11. His lessons in investing have changed the landscape of fundamental analysis and value investing.

Warren Buffet and his partner Charlie Munger have used Berkshire Hathaway as an investment vehicle to put their lessons into practice over the past few decades.

> Occidental Petroleum's stock was reeling from COVID-19, wherein oil prices dropped, leading to enormous losses

They have made many notable and diverse acquisitions under the conglomerate with companies engaged in producing chocolates (See's Candies) to producing crude oil most recently. They have an investment strategy which they posit to small-time retail investors and a large conglomerate making acquisitions worth billions of dollars.

Buffet's most recent purchase of a petrochemical manufacturing company named Occidental Petroleum for billions of dollars highlights not only the Berkshire way of investing aptly, but also acts as an indicator of general market sentiment.

One of Berkshire Hathaway's qualification criteria when investing is to purchase companies with a long history. Occidental Petroleum, incidentally, is over a hundred years' old and was founded in 1920. Secondly, Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger tend to only gravitate towards companies with business models they can understand (circle of competence).

Familiar models

Crude oil and petrochemical production are relatively simple business models that Munger and Buffet are familiar with; therefore, Occidental Petroleum passed the criteria.

Additionally, Buffet and Munger favour companies with a moat or a business edge that prevents competitors from entering the industry and driving down profits. Occidental Petroleum happens to control key areas in the United States and elsewhere, which pose them to gain from any positive extraneous oil shocks, such as the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022, which caused oil prices to skyrocket past $100 a barrel.

Finally, Buffet and Munger prefer companies that are out of favour, leading them to acquire them at dirt-cheap valuations. Occidental Petroleum's stock was reeling from COVID-19, wherein oil prices dropped, leading to enormous losses.

However, their net income growth was 375.58% in 2022 and 120.24% in 2021. Moreover, the earnings per share (EPS) grew by 686.44% in 2022. Additionally, they brought down their long-term debt by over 32% in 2022 post the rise in crude oil and petroleum product prices. These and other factors, such as trust in management (specifically Occidental's CEO Vicki Hollub), propelled Buffet and Munger to purchase 14% of Occidental Petroleum in just two weeks in 2022.

They had recently increased this stake to more than 24% and could purchase $5 billion worth of additional shares at $59.25 if they wished to. Furthermore, they have expressed an interest to continue raising their ownership stake in Occidental without pushing for control of the company.

'Firms play gamblers'

Warren Buffet and Charlie Munger stated that the U.S. markets, especially when it came to companies with large market capitalisation, acted as gamblers trading their stocks like chips in a casino.

He indicated that 40% of Occidental Petroleum was owned by index funds and other passive players who would not react to Berkshire's intent to purchase the company – for a market to provide 14% of a company to acquire out of 60% of its outstanding shares trading in the market meant a lack of serious long-term retail investors. This increase in gamblers rather than investors can be attributed to excess market liquidity. Benjamin Graham, the father of value investing and Warren Buffet's mentor stated that Mr Market (Graham's personification of U.S. stock markets) bought and sold shares in a frenzy and in ways that rational investors would not.

Buffet embraced this idea by purchasing Occidental Petroleum at a relatively cheap valuation realising that the company would eventually recover from its COVID-19 losses.

> The current market, which happens to be filled more with speculators and gamblers rather than long-term investors, makes for fertile grounds for retail investors

Retail investors benefit from uncertain times and murky waters by purchasing shares of companies from Mr Market when he is irrational.

A long-term investor will find exceptional investment opportunities by focusing on one's circle of competence, company fundamentals and longevity, and management quality. The current market, which happens to be filled more with speculators and gamblers rather than long-term investors, makes for fertile grounds for retail investors.

To be an extraordinary investor, one must keep in mind and strictly adhere to ordinary rules when deciding on the companies to invest in.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant, Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

Take these for granted, note them with thanks!

COVERNOTE

The regulator mandated in 2016 that insureds are entitled to life-long renewal of hospitalisation policies. However, this still means you have to remember to renew in time!

K. Nitya Kalyani

In a world that worships achievement, gratitude is an underrated sentiment. Yet, let me dedicate this instalment of Cover Note to key issues in health insurance that have been clarified, defined and codified so that the insured, that is you and me, now take it for granted. Moreover, our expectations go beyond them quickly. However, that is human nature, and it is what leads to progress.

To improve we must be able to measure, and for that we need definitions. Guidelines on Standardisation in Health Insurance were issued on July 29, 2016, by IRDAI where definitions of what a pre-existing disease is were codified. Before that, claim-time interpretations ruled and, invariably, the insured was at the losing end. The definition then was, "Pre-Existing Disease means any condition, ailment or injury or related condition(s) for which there were signs or symptoms, and/ or were diagnosed, and / or for which medical advice / treatment was received within 48 months prior to the first policy issued by the insurer and renewed continuously thereafter."

As an insured, if you are buying a new policy, you should declare any pre-existing disease like heart conditions, cancer, blood pressure, diabetes and so on, which can have long-term or serious effects on health.

The insurer does have the right to refuse your proposal of insurance. If he offers cover, it can be at a premium rate at his discretion. Once you get the policy, any claims for the PEDs will not be payable for a waiting period of four years, the maximum allowed by the regulator. Claims after the waiting period are payable provided you have made this declaration.

This brings us to the next matter. In those days, once a claim is paid, insurance companies were known to dodge renewal. The same was the case with ageing insureds. Perceiving a higher risk of hospitalisation as an insured got older, insurance companies would refuse renewal.

The regulator mandated in 2016 that insureds are entitled to life-long renewal of their hospitalisation policies, except in cases of misrepresentation or fraud, thus lifting a mental and financial pressure that sets in at old age. Remember yet that there are age caps for taking a new policy and that life long renewability still means you have to remember to renew in time!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
State Bank of India	11.00-15.00	10,871-11,895	2,174-2,379	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49-14.49	10,994-11,762	2,199-2,352	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	14.17	11,678	2,336	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 and Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.65 - 12.70	10,294 - 11,300	0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.75	10,343 - 10,809	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.70 - 10.55	10,307 - 10,759	1% (Up to Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.60 - 9.65	10,282 - 10,538	Up to 0.25% (Rs 750-Rs 7,500)
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.90	10,319 - 10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.90 - 13.00	10,355 - 11,377	Up to 0.20% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 4,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.31 - 11.73	10,455 - 11,054	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	11.00	10,871	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank***	9.00-10.10	10,379 - 10,648	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
South Indian Bank	11.65 - 13.10	11,034 - 11,402	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on July 11 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

RESCUE ACT

De Silva and Mathews bail out Sri Lanka after Afridi's blows

Dhananjaya de Silva (94 batting) and Angelo Mathews (64) helped Sri Lanka overcome a top-order collapse and reach 242 for six on day one of the opening Test against Pakistan in Galle on Sunday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 242/6 in 65.4 overs (Mathews 64, de Silva 94 batting, Afridi 3/63) vs. Pakistan. **Toss:** Sri Lanka

EASILY DONE

Bangladesh beats Afghanistan to seal the T20I series 2-0

Host Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by six wickets in the second T20I restricted to 17 overs a side to clinch the two-match series 2-0 in Sylhet on Sunday. **The scores:** Afghanistan 116/7 in 17 overs (Taskin Ahmed 3/33) bt Bangladesh 119/4 in 16.1 overs (Liton Das 35). **Toss:** Bangladesh

A THRILLER

Australia keep the Women's Ashes despite Sciver-Brunt's century

Australia retained the Women's Ashes with a three-run win over England in the second ODI at Southampton despite an unbeaten 111 from Nat Sciver-Brunt. **The scores:** Australia 282/7 in 50 overs (Perry 91, Sutherland 50) bt England 279/7 (Beaumont 60, Sciver-Brunt 111 n.o.). **Toss:** England.

IN FRONT

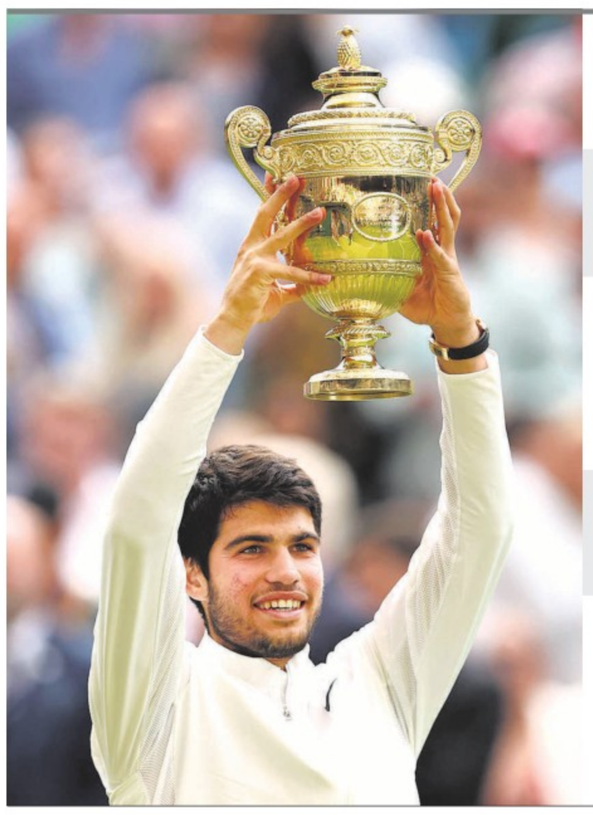
Vingegaard retains Tour lead as Poels wins in the Alps

Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard kept the overall lead of the Tour de France on Sunday crossing the finish line in the second of four Alpine tests side by side with Tadej Pogacar. Wout Poels won the 15th stage raced in the shadow of Mont Blanc. Monday is a rest day ahead of a potentially decisive individual time-trial on Tuesday.

Alcaraz gets the better of a fighting Djokovic in a memorable final

The young Spaniard bounces back after a forgettable first set to surmount the challenge of the seven-time champion Serb in a marathon of five sets lasting four hours and 42 minutes for his second Major crown after the 2022 US Open

Moment of reckoning: Alcaraz celebrates the spectacular victory after outlasting Djokovic in a dream final. AFP



The day in numbers

3 **Alcaraz** is just the third Spanish man after Manuel Santana (1966) and Rafael Nadal (2008, 2010) to win Wimbledon

3 Alcaraz (20 years 72 days) is the third-youngest men's champion at Wimbledon after Bjorn Borg (20 years 27 days, 1976) and Boris Becker (17 years 227 days, 1985; 18 years 226 days, 1986)

4 Alcaraz is the fourth Spanish man to win multiple Grand Slam titles after Nadal, Santana and Sergi Bruguera

5 Alcaraz is the fifth man in the Open Era to win multiple Grand Slam titles prior to turning 21 – after Mats Wilander (4), Borg (3), and Becker and Nadal (both 2)

COMPILED BY **NIHIT SACHDEVA**

WIMBLEDON

Associated Press
LONDON

Carlos Alcaraz defeated seven-time champion Novak Djokovic to claim his first Wimbledon title on Sunday, shattering the Serb's dream of a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam crown.

World No. 1 Alcaraz recovered from dropping the first set and saving a set point in the second to win 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 after four hours and 42 minutes on Centre Court. \

Third youngest

It was a second major for the 20-year-old Spaniard following his US Open title last year as he became Wimbledon's third youngest men's champion.

The result will also spark feverish speculation over the start of a generational shift, with 36-year-old Djokovic carrying the torch of the 'Big Three' now that Roger Federer is retired and Rafael Nadal is sidelined, perhaps permanently.

Pursuing all-time mark

Australian Open and French Open champion Djokovic had been bidding to equal Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles and match Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 Slams.

When he won his first Major at the Australian Open in 2008, Alcaraz was still three months shy of his fifth birthday.

Djokovic was playing in his ninth final at Wimbledon and 35th at the Majors, while for Alcaraz it was just a second in the Slams following his US Open triumph.

The Serb went into the match not having lost on Centre Court since his 2013 final defeat to Andy Murray and he hit with relentless precision in the first set.

Alcaraz, who had been crippled by body cramping in his loss to Djokovic in the French Open semi-final in June, was unable to settle and let a break point slip away in the seven-minute opening game.

Golden chance

Djokovic took advantage and raced into a 5-0 lead on the back of a double break before the Spaniard got on the board.

It was too little, too late as Djokovic claimed the opening set with a smash.

But Alcaraz finally freed himself of his shackles and broke for 2-1 in the second set.

Djokovic hit straight back in the third game before saving a break point in the fourth, coming out on top of a 29-shot rally.

Time violation

The Serb was hit with a time violation in the tie-break before seeing a set point saved.

Alcaraz needed no second invitation when he carved out and converted a set point to level the contest with a backhand winner.

The marathon set had taken 85 minutes as Djokovic's run of 15 tie-breaks won in a row at the Majors ended.

Not his day out: Djokovic could emerge only as the second best. REUTERS

It rains silver for India on final day of Asian athletics

Creditable effort: Manu gabbed the javelin silver with a last-round throw of 81.01m. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Sports Bureau

India picked up a silver in the men's 4x400m relay at the 25th Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok on Sunday.

And there was big disappointment in the women's mile relay where India, the champion in the last five editions of the Asian Games, could manage just a bronze.

After picking golds the last three days, there was a silver shower – eight of them – on the championships' final day. And India finished third in the medals' table with six gold, 12 silver and nine bronze. Japan and China took the first two spots.

The most surprising performance came from Abha Khatau, who equalled Manpreet Kaur's national record of 18.06m while taking the women shot put silver. The 28-year-old, who could manage just 15.98, 16.57 and 16.39 in her last three competitions, improved her personal best by 89cms.

Javelin thrower D.P. Manu gabbed a silver with a last-round effort of 81.01m.

The results (medallists and Indian performances): Men:
200m: 1. Towa Uzawa (Jpn) 20.23s, 2. Yang Chun Han (Tpe) 20.48, 3. Koki Ueyama (Jpn) 20.53.
800m: 1. Abubaker Haydar Abdalla (Qat) 1:45.53s, 2. Krishan Kumar (Ind) 1:45.88, 3. Ebrahim Alzofairi (Kuw) 1:46.11; 7. Muhammed Afsal (Ind) 1:48.77.
5000m: 1. Hyuga Endo (Jpn) 13:34.94s, 2. Kazuya Shiojiri (Jpn) 13:43.92, 3. Gulveer Singh (Ind) 13:48.33. 14. Abhishek Pal (Ind) 15:00.03.
Pole vault: 1. Ernest John (Phi) 5.91m CR, OR 5.71, own, 2019; 2. Hussain Asim (KSA) 5.56, 3. Huang Bokai (Chn) 5.51.
Javelin throw: 1. Roderik Genki Dean (Jpn) 83.15m, 2. D.P. Manu (Ind) 81.01, 3. Muhammed Yasir (Pak) 79.93.
20km walk: 1. Yutaro Murayama (Jpn) 1:24.41s, 2. Wang Kaihua (Chn) 1:25.30, 3. Vikash Singh (Ind) 1:29.33; Akshdeep Singh (Ind) disqualified.
4x400m relay: 1. Sri Lanka 3:01.56s, 2. India (Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, Mijo Chacko, Rajesh Ramesh) 3:01.80, 3. Qatar 3:04.26.
Women: 200m: 1. Veronica Shanti Pereira (Sgp) 22.70s, 2. Jyothi Yarraji (Ind) 23.13, 3. Li Yuting (Chn) 23.25.
800m: 1. Dissanayaka Tharushi Dilsara (Sri) 2:00.66s, 2. Chanda (Ind) 2:01.58, 3. Artigala Gayanthika Thushari (Sri) 2:03.25.
5000m: 1. Yuma Yamamoto (Jpn) 15:51.16s, 2. Parul Chaudhary (Ind) 15:52.35, 3. Ankita (Ind) 16:03.33.
4x400m relay: 1. Vietnam (3:32.36s), 2. Sri Lanka (3:33.27), 3. India (Rezoana Mallick Heena, Aishwarya Mishra, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan) 3:33.73.
20km walk: 1. Yang Liujing (Chn) 1:32.38s, 2. Priyanka (Ind) 1:34.24, 3. Yukiko Umeno (Jpn) 1:36.18; 5. Bhawna Jat (Ind) 1:38.27.
Shot put: 1. Song Jiayuan (Chn) 18.88m, 2. Abha Khatua (Ind) 18.06 equalled national record; 3. Manpreet Kaur (Ind) 17.00.

Lovepreet and Purnima bolster India's medal haul

WEIGHTLIFTING

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Lovepreet Singh added a silver in the men's 109kg category while Purnima Pandey rounded off India's medal haul with a bronze in the women's +87kg category as the host finished its campaign in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships with 18 medals on the final day of competition on Sunday.

While Lovepreet totalled 341kg in the morning session, Pandey lifted 227kg in the evening. India won eight golds, eight silvers and two bronze in the event, held at the Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida and bettered its previous haul of 16 medals in 2021.

Lovepreet Singh. TWITTER/@MEDIA_SAI

Day five results (Indians unless stated):

Men: Junior 109kg: Liam Chandler (SA, 280kg); **Senior: 109kg:** Taniela Tuisuva Rainibogi (Fij, 363kg), Lovepreet Singh (341kg), Andrew Griffiths (Eng, 340kg).

Women: Junior: 87kg: Theresa Rounds Domonatani (Fij, 167kg); **+87kg:** Angel Billen (Can, 214kg), Maibam Martina Devi (213kg), Sukanya J. (SL, 170kg); **Youth: +81kg:** Angel Billen (Can, 214kg), Maibam Martina Devi (213kg), Naza Grant (Can, 184kg); **Senior: 87kg:** Niamph Collins (Wal, 195kg), Chathurika Priyanthi Balage (SL, 191kg), Theresa Rounds Domonatani (Fij, 167kg); **+87kg:** Iuniarra Sipaia (Sam, 262kg), Lesila Fiapule (Sam, 250kg), Purnima Pandey (227kg).

Batting woes see Women In Blue sink to their first-ever ODI defeat to Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MIRPUR

The Indian women's team continued its embarrassing batting show to suffer its first-ever ODI defeat against Bangladesh following a 40-run loss in the opening game here on Sunday.

Debutant seamer Amanjot Kaur's four-wicket haul and an impressive bowling performance of restricting the hosts to 152 in 43 overs was completely undone by the batting unit as it was all out for 113 in 35.5 overs to trail 0-1 in the three-match series.

It was a 44-over per side game due to rain and India's target was revised to 154 via Duckworth-Lewis method.

Deepti Sharma's 20 off 40 balls was the top score as Indian batters. Leg-spinner Rabeya Khan ran through the middle-order with figures of three for 30, while new-ball bowler Marufa Akter with four for 29 had the best figures.

"We didn't take responsibility and bat well. In bowling also, we were not up to the mark," skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said after the game. "Sometimes some bowlers bowl very well, overall we are not batting up to the mark and not bowling according to our strengths."

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH
Murshida Khatun c Harmanpreet b Amanjot 13 (*30b, 2x4*), Sharmin Akhter run out 0 (*18b*), Fargana Hoque c Yastika b Amanjot 27 (*45b, 5x4*), Nigar Sultana lbw b Amanjot 39 (*64b, 3x4*), Ritu Moni c Jemimah b Devika 8 (*18b, 1x4*), Rabeya Khan c Smriti b Amanjot 10 (*12b, 1x4*), Nahida Akter c Priya b Deepti 2 (*15b*), Fahima Khatun (not out) 12 (*29b*), Sultana Khatun b Devika 16 (*20b, 2x4*), Marufa Akter run out 6 (*7b, 1x4*), Shorna Akter absent hurt; Extras (w-19): 19; Total (in 43 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Sharmin, 7.3 overs), 2-14 (Murshida, 8.3), 3-63 (Fargana, 20.5), 4-81 (Ritu, 25.6), 5-103 (Nigar, 30.1), 6-106 (Nahida, 33.1), 7-116 (Rabeya, 34.2), 8-142 (Sultana Khatun, 39.6), 9-152 (Marufa, 42.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Pooja 9-0-37-0, Deepti 9-3-26-1, Amanjot 9-2-31-4, Sneh 8-3-11-0, Anusha 1-0-11-0, Devika 7-0-36-2.

INDIA
Priya Punia c Murshida b Marufa 10 (*27b, 1x4*), Smriti Mandhana c Nigar b Marufa 11 (*12b, 2x4*), Yastika Bhatia b Rabeya 15 (*24b, 1x4*), Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Nahida 5 (*5b, 1x4*), Jemimah Rodrigues c Murshida b Rabeya 10 (*26b*), Deepti Sharma c Ritu b Rabeya 20 (*40b*), Amanjot Kaur c Nigar b Marufa 15 (*40b, 1x4*), Sneh Rana b Marufa 0 (*1b*), Devika Vaidya (not out) 10 (*24b, 1x4*), Pooja Vastrakar c Nigar b Sultana Khatun 7 (*11b*), B. Anusha run out 2 (*5b*); Extras (w-8): 8; Total (in 35.5 overs): 113. (*Revised target: 154 in 44 overs*).

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Smriti, 2.6), 2-30 (Priya, 8.1), 3-37 (Harmanpreet, 9.6), 4-44 (Yastika, 12.6), 5-61 (Jemimah, 16.6), 6-91 (Amanjot, 28.5), 7-91 (Sneh, 28.6), 8-91 (Deepti, 29.1), 9-102 (Pooja, 34.1).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Marufa 7-0-29-4, Nahida 7-0-16-1, Sultana Khatun 8-1-20-1, Ritu 1-0-4-0, Rabeya 7.5-0-30-3, Fahima 5-1-14-0.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Marufa.

Bangladesh won by 40 runs (DLS method), leads three-match series 1-0.

Second ODI: July 19, Mirpur, 9 a.m. IST

INBRIEF

Keerthana upstages Anupama for World U-21 snooker title

Keerthana Pandian defeated fellow Indian Anupama Ramachandran in the final to emerge as the IBSF World under-21 women's snooker champion at Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). Third seed Keerthana edged out top seed Anupama 4-50, 72-50, 71-15, 23-82, 79-45.

Aditi sizzles to be in tied-ninth place at the Dana Open

India's Aditi Ashok fired her second bogey-free round of the week, carding a solid four-under 67 in the third round of the Dana Open in Sylvania, USA, on Saturday. Aditi, with 10-under 203 for 54 holes, was Tied-ninth with a round to go. Sweden's Linn Grant was in the lead with 195.

Lakshya loses to Li in the U.S. Open badminton semifinals

Lakshya Sen fought hard before going down 17-21, 24-22, 17-21 against the reigning All England champion Li Shi Feng of China in the semifinals of the U.S. Open badminton tournament, a BWF Super 300 event, at Council Buffs on Saturday.

Sable finishes sixth in Silesia, qualifies for the Olympics

Ace 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable on Sunday qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics after finishing sixth at the Silesia Diamond League meet in Poland on Sunday. Sable, who clocked 8 minute 11:63 seconds breached the Paris Olympics qualifying mark of 8:15.00.

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 a.m.

Emerging Men's Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

UTT: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.

MLC: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Tuesday)

South Zone bowlers deliver the goods for a famous victory over West Zone

Vihari's men win by 75 runs after Panchal & Co. fail to put up a fight, losing the remaining five wickets in 22 overs; Kaverappa takes the honours

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

South Zone ran through West Zone on the final day to emerge as the Duleep Trophy champion at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. West, which needed 116 runs when play started, fell short by 75 runs. The unit did not put up a fight, losing its remaining five wickets in just 22 overs.

West's hopes hinged on captain Priyank Panchal, who resumed on his overnight score of 92.

Panchal, however, departed to a poor shot in the third over of the day.

The opener barely moved his feet and threw his bat at a delivery from Vidwath Kaverappa, offering a catch to wicketkeeper Ricky Bhui.

All the good work done by Panchal on the fourth day came undone with this false stroke.

Panchal explained that he expected the ball to reverse in, when in fact it went straight on.

Tables have turned: South's win avenged last year's summit clash loss to West. K. MURALI KUMAR

"I made a mistake and completely misjudged it. I should have watched the ball closely for another three or four overs before playing that shot," Panchal said.

Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore then removed Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Chintan Gaja, and Atit Sheth to hasten the end. The three batters fell in search of big hits and quick runs.

Fast bowler Kaverappa, who took a seven-for in the first essay, was declared the 'Player of the Match'.

Kaverappa, the standout performer with 15 wickets in two matches, also won the 'Player of the Series' award.

In an outing frequently interrupted by heavy rain, the play was made possible thanks to the good work done by groundspersons and the excellent SubAir drainage system.

The scores:
South Zone — 1st innings: 213.
West Zone — 1st innings: 146.
South Zone — 2nd innings: 230.
West Zone — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw b Koushik 7, Priyank Panchal c Bhui b Kaverappa 95, Harvik Desai lbw b Vyshak 4, Cheteshwar Pujara c Tilak b Koushik 15, Suryakumar Yadav lbw b Koushik 4, Sarfaraz Khan b Kishore 48, Atit Sheth c Washington b Kishore 9, Shams Mulani c Agarwal b Koushik 2, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c Washington b Kishore 15, Chintan Gaja c Koushik b Kishore 0, Arzan Nagwaswalla (not out) 0; Extras (b-14, lb-5, w-1, nb-3): 23; Total (in 84.2 overs): 222.
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-18, 3-75, 4-79, 5-177, 6-189, 7-195, 8-218, 9-220.
South bowling: Kaverappa 19-2-51-1, Koushik 25-7-36-4, Vyshak 17-6-39-1, Kishore 20.2-2-57-4, Washington 3-0-20-0.
Result: South Zone won by 75 runs.
PoTM and PoTS: Vidwath Kaverappa (South Zone).

Nice to get one back against West, says South skipper Vihari

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Having served as the South Zone captain which lost the Duleep Trophy final to West Zone in the previous edition, Hanuma Vihari entered this fixture with a point to prove. He pulled out all the stops to ensure that South prevailed in this rematch.

"It is nice to get one back against West Zone. They dominated us last year, although we got the first innings lead. We again got the innings lead in this match, so I reminded the boys of what happened last year," Vihari said.

Brothers-in-arms: Vihari and Mayank's batting was instrumental in South's successful campaign. K. MURALI KUMAR

Natural leader

Vihari has all the qualities of being a natural leader. The experienced batter excelled in tactics, game awareness and man management.

"I loved it (captaincy). If you have a good bowling attack then the captaincy pressure comes down," the genial Vihari said.

Zonal system

The 29-year-old explained that he prefers the zonal team system used for this tournament, rather than the India Red, India Blue and India Green sides which competed from 2016 to 2020.

"The quality of cricket in this year's Duleep Trophy was really good. I'm not just saying this because we won the tournament (laughs). When it was India Blue or India Green, the players went through the motions. Once it came back to the zonal format, the competitiveness went up. It hope it remains the same," Vihari said.

The decision to include V. Koushik in the eleven for the final proved to be a masterstroke, as the Karnataka pacer picked up four crucial wickets in the second essay.

"The reason why I picked Koushik ahead of (K.V.) Sasikanth is because there was a bit of a lack of discipline in the semifinal. We needed a bowler who could contain the runs and pick wickets at the same time. Koushik knows the conditions here well and I believed that picking him will give us control," Vihari said.

SNAPSHOTS

Shubham, Sainyam win air pistol golds in Jr. World Championship

CHANGWON (KOREA): Shubham Bisla and Sainyam won the 10m air pistol junior men and women's gold respectively as India started with a bang in the Junior World Championship on Sunday.
The results:
10m air pistol: Junior men: 1. Shubham Bisla 244.6 (578)); 2. Bu Shuaihang (Chn) 239.6 (585); 3. Kim Kanghyun (Kor) 218.2 (577); 4. Sagar Bhargava 198.2 (575); 5. Amit Sharma 178.5 (576).
Junior women: 1. Sainyam 242.2 (576); 2. Oh Ye Jin (Kor) 239.4 (587 WRJ); 3. Yao Qianxun (Chn) 218.6 (578); 4. Urva Chaudhary 198.1 (576

Prithviraj takes trap bronze in shotgun WC

LONATO (ITALY): Prithviraj Tondaiman delivered another bronze medal in men's trap in the shotgun World Cupon Sunday.
The results: Trap: Men: 1. Nathan Hales (GBR) 49 (123); 2. Qi Ying (Chn) 48 (123); 3. Prithviraj Tondaiman 34 (122); 16. Bhowneesh Mendiratta 120; 66. Zoravar Singh Sandhu 115; RPO: Lakshay Sheoran 111; Lakshjeet Singh Sindhu 108.

UTT: U Mumba edges Chennai Lions

PUNE: A Mumbai versus Chennai affair in a franchise-based league going down to the wire is nothing new.
The same phenomenon was on display in the Ultimate Table Tennis season four as U Mumba put it past Chennai Lions 8-7 on Sunday.
The result: Chennai Lions lost to U Mumba TT 7-8 (A. Sharath Kamal lost to Aruna Quadri 8-11, 8-11, 5-11; Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Lily Zhang 10-11, 7-11, 11-10; Sharath & Yangzi Liu lost to Manav Thakkar & Lily 11-6, 5-11, 9-11; Benedikt Duda bt Manav Thakkar 11-8, 11-9, 11-4; Yangzi bt Diya Chitale 11-6, 8-11, 11-3).

Jamari wins the Betway Bangalore Summer Derby

REWARDING A CHAMPION: The BTC chairman Shiv Kumar Kheny with, from left, Shivender Singh, Jamari's owners D.R. Thacker, K.N. Dhunjibhoy, and Anita J. Captain, Raghav Nagpal, Rohan Gupta, A.S. Narielwala, jockey C. Umesh, Ravi Reddy and trainer P. Shroff. K. MURALI KUMAR

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Jamari (C. Umesh up) won the Betway Bangalore Summer Derby, the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (July 16).
The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep by. Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep by. Mr. D.R. Thacker & Miss. Anita J. Captain.
Umesh, confidently piloted the filly for a while and settled down to second position till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Jamari started galloping with giant strides, overtook the leader Champions Way near the 500m, and went on to claim her third win in facile manner.
THE RESULTS:
1. KNOTTY MAIDEN MILLION: LEATHER BACK (Sai Kiran) 1, Brave Majesty (S. Saqlain) 2, Smash Shot (Hindu S) 3 and Tigerking (T.S. Jodha) 4. 4-1/4, Nose and 2. 1m, 15.51s. ₹14 (w), 12, 14 and 37 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 89, FP: 38, Q: 43, Trinella: 614, Exacta: 5,382. Favourite: Leather Back.
Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao.
Trainer: Warren Singh.
2. TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA TROPHY: ALL ATTRACTION (G. Vivek) 1, Mighty Zo (Akshay K) 2, Stellar Gold (Vishal Bunde) 3 and Stormy Ocean (Antony) 4. Nk, 3-1/2 and 3. 1m, 54.75s. ₹32 (w), 16, 14 and 67 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 158, FP: 84, Q: 53, Trinella: 3,323, Exacta: 6,284. Favourite: Stormy Ocean.
Owner: M/s. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: B. Prithviraj.
3. HYDERABAD SALVER: TOUCH OF GREY (Suraj) 1, Aquamatic (I. Chisty) 2, Vivaldo (Akshay K) 3 and Contribute (Hindu S) 4. 3, 1/2 and Shd. 1m, 27.28s. ₹20 (w), 13, 24 and 15 (p), SHP: 76, THP: 47, FP: 197, Q: 170, Trinella: 859, Exacta: 3,142. Favourite: Touch Of Grey.
Owners: Mr. Balam Mohla, Mr. Anil Saraf & Mr. Apana Subaiya P.
Trainer: S. Narredu.
4. COROMANDEL GROMOR B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP: NORTHERN LIGHTS (Trevor) 1, Supreme Dance (C. Umesh) 2, Evaldo (S. John) 3 and Knotty Dancer (G. Vivek) 4. Not run: Leopard Rock and Dun It Again. 3-1/4, 3/4 and 4. 1m, 27.41s. ₹13 (w), 10, 24 and 17 (p), SHP: 72, THP: 41, FP: 100, Q: 75, Trinella: 509, Exacta: 2,652. Favourite: Northern Lights.
Owners: Mr. Vijay B. Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Dara K. Mehta & Mr. Bhupinder Singh S.S.
Trainer: P. Shroff.
5. HOOVES OF STEEL SUMANGALA TMT MILLION: BOOSTER SHOT (Akshay K) 1, Sassy (Shreyas S) 2, Momentous (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Truth In Wine (Hindu S) 4. Snk, 5-1/2 and 1. 1m, 41.10s. ₹111 (w), 30, 19 and 30 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 64, FP: 966, Q: 454, Trinella: 98,572, Exacta: 1,07,046 (carried over). Favourite: Royal Mysore.
Owners: Mr. Girish Mehta, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep by. Mr. D.R. Thacker. Trainer: Imtiaz Sait.
6. BETWAY BANGALORE SUMMER DERBY: JAMARI (COUGAR MOUNTAIN-GLYNDEBOURNE) C. UMESH 1, Auspicious Queen (Gusto-Almandine) Angad 2, Destroyer (Exceed And Excel-Abaq) I. Chisty 3 and Synthesis (Speaking Of Which-Sana) Suraj 4. Not run: Christofle. 7, 1-1/2 and 2-3/4. 2m, 09.58s. ₹62 (w), 18, 89 and 18 (p), SHP: 431, THP: 55, FP: 14,601, Q: 4,073, Trinella: 48,844, Exacta: 1,12,989. Favourite: Synthesis.
Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep by. Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep by. Mr. D.R. Thacker & Miss. Anita J. Captain.
Trainer: P. Shroff.
7. MUMBAI CUP: SIEGE COURAGEOUS (G. Vivek) 1, Galactical (Arvind K) 2, Star Glory (Suraj) 3 and Fast Rain (N.S. Parmar) 4. 3, Hd and Shd. 1m, 13.96s. ₹26 (w), 13, 28 and 18 (p), SHP: 83, THP: 59, FP: 324, Q: 292, Trinella: 2,651, Exacta: 25,429. Favourite: Siege Courageous.
Owners: Mr. Dean Stephens & Mukteshwar Racing LLP.
Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.
8. DESERT GOD TROPHY: KING OF WAR (Akshay K) 1, Top Dancer (Inayat) 2, Foi (S. Saqlain) 3 and Glow In The Dark (Sai Kiran) 4. Not run: Sofiya. 2-3/4, 2-1/4 and 1. 1m, 28.13s. ₹48 (w), 16, 16 and 34 (p), SHP; 44, THP: 67, FP: 200, Q: 99, Trinella: 3,246, Exacta: 8,752. Favourite: Time.
Owner: Mrs. Shruthiba L. Gowda.
Trainer: V. Lokanath.
Jackpot: ₹33,949 (18 tkts.); Runner-up: 3,637 (72 tkts.); Treble (i): 325 (59 tkts.); (ii): 916 (42 tkts.).

Tanveer has the last laugh

Rayan Rozario
COIMBATORE

Petronas TVS Racing's Abdul Wahid Tanveer emerged the champion of the Rally of Coimbatore, the third round of the FMSCI MRF MOGRIP Indian National Rally Championship for two-wheelers on Sunday.

The results (Winners only, provisional): Overall: Abdul Wahid (Petronas TVS Racing) 00:56:49.928
Class 1 (Super Bike, Pro Expert): Group A: Abdul Wahid 00:56:49.928
Class 2 (Super Bike, Expert): Group A: R. Nataraj 00:58:35.799
Class 3: Super Sports 165cc Group B: P. Yogesh 01:07:08.212
Class 4: (Super Sport 260) Group B: Imran Pasha 01:00:36.501
Class 5 (Super Sport 400) Group B: Akhand Pratap Singh 01:05:02.310)
Class 6 (Super Sport 550) Group B: V.S Naresh 01:06:36.009
Class 7 (Scooters up to 210 CC): Group B: Syed Asif 01:10:40.975
Class 8: Women, Group B): Tanika Shanbhag 01:09:48.803.
Class 9 (Super Stock upto 450 cc, Group B): M.M. Mohammed Arshad 01:07:10.443
Class 10: Star of Tamil Nadu: A. Tharun 01:09:47.943

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Magheshwaran Balu elected BDFA chairman

S. Magheshwaran Balu was unanimously elected chairman of the Bangalore District Football Association (BDFA) for a four-year term (2023-2027), at the AGM held here on Sunday.
Other BDFA office-bearers: Vice-chairman: R. Shankar; **secretary:** M. Sridharan; **treasurer:** J. Santosh Kumar.
Managing committee members: Chikka Chennaiah, R. Mohan, S. Shiva, K.L. Prakash, G. Appaji, Sagaibackianathan, R. Nanda Kumar, Sarala N. Swamy, G. Ramesh, N. Ramesh Kumar, A. Arokia Raj, M. Mukundan Balu, Sathiyaraj, P. Rajendra Prasad, P.C. Sukanand.
KSFA Governing Board: N.A. Haris, M. Satyanarayan, M. Kumar, M.P. Swamy, Hanif Mohammed, P.M. Shakeel Abdul Rahiman, B.K. Muniraj, Aslam Ahmed Khan, S.L. Anthony, Shyam Sharan Shahi, B. Kamal, Saravana Dharman, C. Ravi Kumar.

Shivam drives Rajkumar BC's win

Shivam's 18 points propelled Rajkumar BC to a 66-42 victory over Hoysala BC Hassan in a boys' match at the State sub-junior basketball championship here on Sunday. In the girls' category, Bangalore Vanguards beat Koramangala SC 25-21.